

Can I convey a character  
through dialogue?

# Fast four

What are the four key things to remember when correctly punctuating dialogue?

# Fast four answers

1. New speaker new line
2. Always begin what is being said with a capital letter
3. The inverted commas much always go at the beginning and end of the speech.
4. Remember to add a comma if you are not using ! ? and the sentence hasn't finished.
- 5.

# Ways to convey character through dialogue.

1. **What** they say
2. **How** they say it – verbs instead of said eg bellowed, whispered, sang, sneered
3. **How** they say it – adverbs – angrily, timidly, defiantly, laughingly
4. **Voice** description - adjectives eg cold, bitter, warm, gentle, musical, rough, hostile
5. **Actions** as they talk – pushed, wagged a finger, wept, thumped the table, picked up a child, washed the dishes, raised a sword

“I wonder if you’ve got such a thing as a balloon about you?”

“A balloon?”

“Yes, I just said to myself coming along: ‘I wonder if Christopher Robin has such thing as a balloon about him?’ I just said it to myself, thinking of balloons, and wondering.”

“What do you want a balloon for?” you said.

Winnie-the-Pooh looked round to see that nobody was listening, put his paw to his mouth, and said in a **deep whisper**: “*Honey!*”

”But you don’t get honey with balloons!”

“I do,” said Pooh.

Adverbs and verbs

What does this tell you about Pooh?

Lonely?

“I wonder if you’ve got such a thing as a balloon about you?”

“A balloon?”

“Yes, I just **said to myself** coming along: ‘I wonder if Christopher Robin has such thing as a balloon about him?’ I just said it to myself, thinking of balloons, and wondering.”

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“But you don’t get honey with balloons!”

“*I do,*” said Pooh.

Adventurous

He doesn't want  
people to know  
about his plan

Lonely?

He usually helps Pooh.

“I wonder if you’ve got such a thing as a balloon about you?”

“A balloon?”

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“What do you want a balloon for?” you said.

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”**But you don’t get honey with balloons!**”

“I do,” said Pooh.

Adventurous

He tries to be logical

He doesn't want people to know about his plan

What does this tell you about Christopher Robin?

“What’s the matter with you?” Mr Twit said.

“Help!” screamed Mrs Twit, bouncing about. “There’s something in my bed!”

“I’ll be it’s that Giant Skillywiggler I saw on the floor just now,” Mr Twit said.

“That *what?*” screamed Mrs Twit.

“I tried to kill it but it got away,” Mr Twit said. “It’s got teeth like screwdriver!”

“Help!” screamed Mrs Twit. “Save me! It’s all over my feet!”

“It’ll bite off your toes,” said Mr Twit.

What does this tell you about Mr Twit?



He stays calm and un-phased through the whole conversation.

“What’s the matter with you?” Mr Twit **said**.

“Help!” screamed Mrs Twit, bouncing about. “There’s something in my bed!”

“I’ll be it’s that Giant Skillywiggler I saw on the floor just now,” Mr Twit **said**.

“That *what?*” screamed Mrs Twit.

**“I tried to kill it but it got away,”** Mr Twit **said**. “It’s got teeth like screwdriver!”

“Help!” screamed Mrs Twit. “Save me! It’s all over my feet!”

**“It’ll bite off your toes,”** **said** Mr Twit.

He isn’t bothered

He liked to provoke Mrs Twit.

# What does this tell you about Mrs Twit.

She is not amused

He stays calm and un-phased through the whole conversation.

“What’s the matter with you?” Mr Twit **said**.

“Help!” screamed Mrs Twit, bouncing about. “There’s something in my bed!”

“I’ll be it’s that Giant Skillywiggler I saw on the floor just now,” Mr Twit **said**.

“**That what?**” screamed Mrs Twit.

“**I tried to kill it but it got away,**” Mr Twit **said**. “It’s got teeth like screwdriver!”

“Help!” screamed Mrs Twit. “**Save me!** It’s all over my feet!”

“**It’ll bite off your toes,**” **said** Mr Twit.

He isn’t bothered

Over dramatic

He liked to provoke Mrs Twit.

# Your task:

Write your own pieces of dialogue between two people convey these characteristics and emotions. Match a character to one characteristic. One character should not convey two emotions/characteristics.

- Happy, angry, excited, concerned.
- Impatient, brave, excited, weak, caring, funny.
- Exhausted, authoritative, frightened, argumentative, wild, distrustful.
- Remember to use: what they are saying and how they say it to convey the character. (Adjectives, adverbs, verbs)