### **CHAPTER**

7

# **Dialogue Writing**

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## **Rubric for Dialogue Writing**

- 1. Adherence to the topic
- 2. Relevant Conversation
- 3. Grammar
- 4. Punctuation
- 5. Vocabulary

#### **Basic Rules of Dialogue Writing**

- Use quotation marks before and after the speaker's exact words.
- Use a comma to separate the speaker from the quote.
- Put periods, question mark and exclamation points inside the quotation marks.
- Start a new paragraph whenever a speaker switches.

# i. Dialogue between a teacher and a student

**Teacher**: Hello Fauzia! You are a bit late today.

**Fauzia**: Yes, Madam, I am sorry. **Teacher**: Well. What happened?

**Fauzia**: The school bus was right on schedule. It was about to cross the canal bridge when

it came to a halt with a jerk. The tyre had gone flat.

**Teacher**: I see. It is not your fault.

**Fauzia**: One thing more, Madam. The driver had no jack with him. He waved to other

vehicles but they would not stop. Nobody seemed willing to oblige at this rush

hour.

**Teacher**: Well. What did you do then? You came by another bus. Didn't you?

**Fauzia**: No, Madam, we left the bus where it was and walked up to school all the way.

**Teacher**: Well done! You are a brave girl indeed But remember, always be careful while

crossing roads. Now, girls let us get going with our lesson.

## ii. Dialogue between two students regarding Salat

**Osama**: Well, now I'd like to take rest for a while. I've had my meal, you know.

**Salman**: Ok. You take rest while I fix this picture of a landscape on the wall. Where is the sticky tape?

**Osama**: Out there in the drawer.

**Salman**: Well, I think this picture needs to be a bit higher up. How do you like it Osama?

**Osama**: Lovely! Good, well done. It looks nice up there. Now let us go for namaz to the masjid.

**Salman**: I am going to the market. I shall not be long.

**Osama**: No, namaz first. Have you heard the moezzin's call for salat? Haven't you?

**Salman**: Sure, I have but I am going out. It's very urgent. My motor bike is out at the gate.

**Osama**: There is nothing in the world that ought to be more urgent than a namaz.

**Salman**: I don't really understand it. Art is long and life is short. There is so much to do in the world. There is so much fun-games, sports, T. V., cricket, world cups, videos, feature films, fun-fairs, shopping, loitering and break and break and break. Sorry, I am going.

Osama: Dear me! Who am I to hold you back? Dear as you are to me, I sincerely wish that you offer namaz. Namaz gives us peace, freshness, balance, courage, hope, goodness in our short life here on the earth, and eternal goodness in the life hereafter.

**Salman**: Oh, I am sick of your sermons, Osama!

Osama: See, Allah has given us eyes, ears, heart, hands, legs and brain. Salman, you see such a lovely world is there around us. Great gifts are they! Aren't they? We must thank Allah - the Merciful, the Sustainer. As Muslims we offer namaz and this is how we thank Allah.

**Salman**: All right. I must thank Allah for the blessings that He has bestowed upon me.I love Him, too. I'll go with you.

## iii. Dialogue asking one's way

**A**: Excuse me for troubling you sir, but can you tell me the way to the museum?

**B**: Certainly. Keep straight on along this road, take the first turn to the right, and that will take you to a green square with flagpoles. That is Istanbul Square; cross it, and you'll see a corner of a red-brick building with a couple of domes. That is the museum.

**A**: Thanks very much indeed.

**B**: My pleasure.

(A goes on walking and takes the wrong turn. He wanders around a good deal. Tired and upset, he talks to a passer-by.)

A: Pardon me, sir, does this road lead to the museum?

**B**: I am sorry, sir. I don't know. I am a complete stranger here myself.

(Another gentleman C on hearing this, stops.)

C: Yes. Keep straight this way for over a mile and a half until you come to

Chowk Azadi, then turn to the left. But it is a good way.

**A**: How far, do you think?

C: Over two miles, I should say. I'd take a bus, if I were you.

**A**: What number or route please?

C: Take number 117 when you come to Chowk Azadi. That will take you to the museum.

**A**: Thanks.

## iv. Dialogue between a brother and a sister concerning time

**Ali**: What is the time?

**Fatimah**: It is nearly five minutes to eight by my watch.

Ali: Upon my word, we must hurry up, if you are to catch that train to Rawalpindi.

**Fatimah**: Why, when is it due out?

**Ali**: At quarter past nine exactly.

Fatimah: Oh, never mind. We have plenty of time.

Ali: I am not so sure of that. What on earth have you been doing? What time did you

get up?

Fatimah: I woke up before half-past five. Then I performed ablution and offered my

morning salat. Now breakfast is ready. Don't look at me like that.

**Ali**: For Heaven's sake, get ready! We have not a minute to lose. Time flies, you know.

#### v. Dialogue between a tailor and a customer

(Father is about to set up the tape-recorder, he calls aloud Yasser, Anne). Come over here. Hurry up! (They show up in a minute.)

**Father:** You are going to hear a dialogue on the tape now.

**Yasser**: Father! What is it about?

**Father:** Well, see this picture. (There is a picture of a tailor and a customer. Father

switches on the tape-recorder. They listen with attention.)

**Tailor**: Good morning, Sir, what can I do for you?

Customer: I should like to be measured for a suit.

Tailor: With pleasure, Sir, kindly step this way. What style and shade would you

prefer?

Customer: I want an ordinary lounge suit made of brown tweed. How much would the

stitching cost?

**Tailor**: I could make you a suit for Rs. 2000/-. It is quite reasonable, sir.

**Customer**: That's right.

**Tailor**: Could you manage to call in sometime next week for the try?

Customer: Yes, just give me a ring. Here is my card.

**Tailor**: Very good, sir. Good morning. (Father takes out the plug and talks to his kids.)

**Father**: What do you say to that, kids?

Yasser: Very interesting, Dad.

Anne: Father I'll hear it again and then we will practise it. Yasser will act out as the

tailor, and I shall be the customer.