



Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue

SEVEN STEPS WRITING TIPS

Series One

Don't tell anyone but authors 'cheat' when we write – especially when we write dialogue.

Normal conversations go like this:

'Hi.'

'Hi. How are you?'

'Good. And you?'

'Good.'

'I was thinking of going shopping.'

'Oh. What for?'

'My mother gave me some money for my birthday and I need a new jumper.'

'Sounds great. Count me in.'

In real life conversations we often talk in clichés and ramble a lot. However, reading takes effort, so to keep things moving fast, writers cut straight to the action.

'Hey, my mum gave me some money for my birthday. Want to go shopping?'

'Sounds great. Count me in.'

TOP TIP:

Give kids a starting line to help them avoid the boring parts. Are they writing a conversation between a ghost and a flying pig? Suggest where to begin: *'Hey! Watch where you're going!'*



ACTION ACTIVITY:

Tape a conversation at home. Listen to all the rambling, half finished sentences and 'umms' and 'er's.' This is great proof that strong writing does not have to be based on real life!

© Jen McVeity, author and National Literacy Champion

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www.sevenstepswriting.com

Email: office@sevenstepswriting.com

Phone: (61-3) 9521 8439

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