



## DIALOGUES

**DEFINITION** → In a dialogue, there is a conversation or a discussion between two or more people or groups, especially one directed towards exploration of a particular subject or resolution of a problem.

**STRUCTURE** → There may be an introduction to the characters and the setting of the dialogue and the dialogue itself which consists of an exchange of direct speech information among two or more participants.

### EXAMPLE OF A DIALOGUE WRITING → MOVIE DISCUSSION

**(Three people went to the cinema to watch *The Last Samurai*. After the movie, they had a meal together. They had a good discussion about that movie.)**

A: "Did you like the movie?"

B: "It was better than I thought."

C: "I liked it."

A: "The movie didn't have many cheesy or stupid scenes."

B: "Yeah. I'm glad that they didn't have any love scenes. Sometimes a love scene destroys a good movie."

C: "I thought the scene where the girl was washing her hair and Tom Cruise came to say good bye was stupid. Why did they have that there? It didn't make sense."

B: "I agree. They didn't need that scene."

A: "I don't see the harm in that scene. They didn't do anything or show anything. What's the big deal?"

C: "When you are talking about good movies versus great movies, each and every scene counts."

A: "That's true."

B: "But besides those one or two scenes, the movie was great."

A: "I liked everything about it. I really liked the samurai that was beating up Cruise in the beginning of the movie. The guy second in command. He was cool too."

B: "Every movie has a guy like him. They try to make him awesome even though they don't say much."

C: "I don't understand why Tom Cruise went back to that village. If he was the only survivor, wouldn't that make everyone suspicious about where his loyalty lies?"

A: "It was clear in the movie that he loved the place and the samurais. Clearly everyone knows that he isn't a traitor. I would have done the same thing in his position."

B: "I think so too."

C: "But isn't it suspicious that he is the only survivor?"

A: "Well, all the samurais were looking for a death in battle. Cruise wasn't."

C: "But only the boss received the satisfaction of being killed with the sword. Nobody else did."

A: "True."

B: "What are we going to order?"

C: "I am going to have a chicken burger because of the Mad Cow disease."

A: "Me too."

B: "I'm just having a soup and salad."

## LINGUISTICS ASPECTS

- 1) **No use of long speeches.**
- 2) **Avoid “talking heads”.**
- 3) **Balance narrative and dialogue.**
- 4) **Avoid formal, stilted dialogue.**
- 5) **Make sure your dialogue has a purpose.** (Move the story forward, Reveal character, Create conflict, Reveal information and backstory.)
- 6) **Use dialogue tags correctly.**
- 7) **Make sure you punctuate and format your dialogue correctly.** (Use of inverted commas, commas, quotation marks, exclamation and interrogative marks to reflect direct speech sentences.)