

Grammar, Dialogue Tags, Paragraphs, Show vs. Tell

1) NEW PARAGRAPHS:

- A) Every time a new idea/topic begins
- B) Every time a different person is talking

Keep paragraphs short, not 1/2pp, and not often ¼ pp. Readers like to feel the page is easy to read.

2) QUOTATION MARKS are used for all dialogue. For example:

“Stop it,” she said.

“No way, I’m going to do it,” he said.

3) TAGS: try to minimize tags. For example: in the above sentences, **said** is a tag. (or **mumbled, shouted, yelled, called, cried, murmured, whispered**)

You can change those sentences to:

“Stop it.” She picked up her camera.

He stepped back from her. “No way, I’m going to do it.”

We know **who** is doing the talking, and thus don’t have to say, **she said, he said.**

Tags are useful sometimes, to indicate how the person is talking. So sometimes **shouted, whispered, cried etc.** are useful. Just minimize the use.

4) Minimize ! **marks**. Use only when necessary.

5) **Show vs Tell:**

Eg. He looked angry=His eyes narrowed.

Eg. She looked happy=She smiled.

Eg. The guy was frustrated. The guy’s voice went up an octave.

Sometimes it’s okay to tell, just minimize it.