

What to do today

1. Read 'The Princess and the Pea' by Lauren Child

- This is the first part of Lauren Child's version of the story. How is it different to Hans Christian Anderson's version? Which do you prefer?

2. Practise dialogue punctuation

- Choose either *Dialogue Practice 1* or *Dialogue Practice 2*. (Version 2 is a little more tricky – challenge yourself!) Use the *Revision Card* and *Dialogue Checklist* to help you.

Finished? Wow! Great stuff. Check your answers with a grownup. Discuss any mistakes you made.

3. Now for some writing

- Write a version of part of the story. Include some dialogue as you do and practise punctuating it perfectly.

Try these Fun-Time Extras

- Make a comic-strip version of The Princess and the Pea.
- Act the story out with toys. You could maybe ask an adult to film it for you.

The Princess and the Pea – by Lauren Child

One day when the prince was old enough, his parents decided that it was time for him to be married. You know what parents are like and a prince's parents are no different.

The prince didn't object to the idea but he did make one condition – he wanted to marry for love.

He was just that kind of romantic boy.

He told his father and his mother, "I would gladly marry tomorrow but, whoever she is she must be more mesmerising than the moon and I must find her more fascinating than all the stars in the sky. And there must be a certain... something about her."

"What something?" asked the queen.

"Just... something," replied the prince.

"Yes, yes," agreed the king, "That's all very lovely but our condition is that she must be a princess of blue blood and equal in royalness to you."

The prince wasn't all that interested in these details but knew he wouldn't get any peace until he agreed. So he did.

Now you may think finding yourself a

suitable princess would be easy to do if you are a handsome prince but you would be wrong – just how many mesmerising and fascinating princesses do you imagine there are out there?

Well, the king and queen did all the traditional fairy-tale things in order that their son might be bowled over by the right girl.



Lauren Child

Dialogue Practice - 1

*Rewrite these sentences so that **speech marks** hug the spoken words.*

1. I've decided that you should be married, said the King.
2. Whoever I marry must be more mesmerising than the moon, replied the Prince.
3. There has to be a certain...something about her, he went on.
4. What something? asked the Queen.
5. Just ... something, said the Prince.
6. Yes, yes, agreed the king, that's all very lovely but our condition is that she must be a princess of blue blood.
7. I'm not all that interested in that, responded the Prince.
8. Well, we are! retorted the Queen.
9. Fine then, shrugged the Prince, if that's the way it has to be.
10. It absolutely is! said the King.

Dialogue Practice 2

Hug the direct speech with speech marks and then separate it from the reporting clause with a comma.

1. I'll go and answer the door then grumbled the King.
2. I wonder who it could be at this time of night he went on.
3. I must tell Hobbs to oil the lock he said as he turned the key.
4. Oh! he exclaimed as the door swung open Who are you?
5. I'm a very wet and very cold princess answered the princess.
6. Who was hoping that she might, just maybe might, come in from the cold she hinted.
7. Well said the King you really must.
8. That's very kind of you said the Princess.
9. You're really sure it's OK? she questioned.
10. I am very wet she said, pointing out the obvious.

Revision Card

Direct Speech

Summary of Rules

Speech marks 'hug'
the spoken words

Each new speaker
starts on a new line

A comma usually
separates the **direct
speech** from the
reporting clause

Unless the speech
ends in
! or ?

Direct speech begins
with a capital letter.

Unless the sentence
is interrupted by a
reporting clause.

Dialogue Checklist

1. Hug the direct speech with speech marks:

"I am a princess," explained the girl.

2. Add a reporting clause to say who is speaking:

"I am a princess," **explained the girl.**

3. Begin direct speech with a capital letter:

"**I** am a princess," explained the girl.

4. Separate dialogue from reporting clauses with a comma:

"I am a princess," explained the girl.

The queen asked, "What sort of princess?"

5. Don't use a comma for speech ending in ? and !:

"You live in a tree house!" exclaimed the king.

"Why?" asked the queen.

6. Start a new line for each change of speaker:

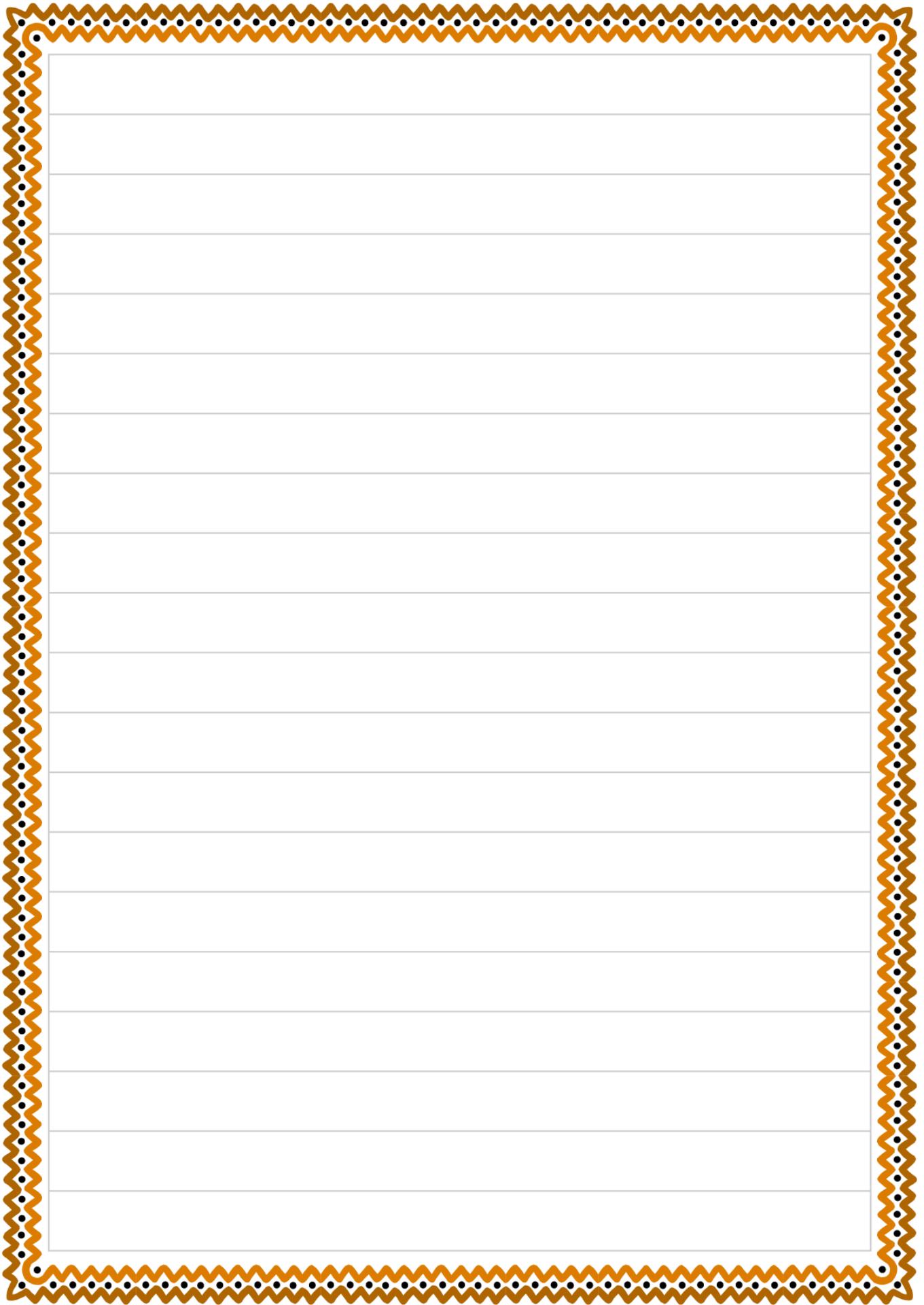
"I am a princess," explained the girl.

The queen asked, "What sort of princess?"

"Oh, a real princess, of course," she answered.

7. Continue an interrupted dialogue sentence with a lower case letter:

"I was outside admiring the moon," the girl explained, "when it started to rain."



Dialogue Practice – 1 - Answers

*Rewrite these sentences so that **speech marks** hug the spoken words.*

1. "I've decided that you should be married," said the King.
2. "Whoever I marry must be more mesmerising than the moon," replied the Prince.
3. "There has to be a certain...something about her," he went on.
4. "What something?" asked the Queen.
5. "Just ..something," said the Prince.
6. "Yes, yes," agreed the king, "that's all very lovely but our condition is that she must be a princess of blue blood."
7. "I'm not all that interested in that," responded the Prince.
8. "Well, we are!" retorted the Queen.
9. "Fine then," shrugged the Prince, "if that's the way it has to be."
10. "It absolutely is!" said the King.

Dialogue Practice 2 - Answers

Hug the direct speech with speech marks and then separate it from the reporting clause with a comma.

1. "I'll go and answer the door then," grumbled the King.
2. "I wonder who it could be at this time of night." he went on.
3. "I must tell Hobbs to oil the lock," he said, as he turned the key.
4. "Oh!" he exclaimed, as the door swung open, "Who are you?"
5. "I'm a very wet and very cold princess," answered the princess.
6. "Who was hoping that she might, just maybe might, come in from the cold," she hinted.
7. "Well," said the King, "you really must."
8. "That's very kind of you," said the Princess.
9. "You're really sure it's OK?" she questioned.
10. "I am very wet," she said, pointing out the obvious.