

English 1 – Playscripts

L.O. To read and write playscripts.

Lesson Video: <https://www.loom.com/share/2eaef7a867be4710a0507c5556059b68>

Quiz!

Identify the person speaking (first, second or third person) in the sentences below:

1. Joey was in the garden planting sunflowers with his sister when it started to rain.
 - first person
 - second person
 - third person

2. In the middle of the night, I woke up with a fright!
 - first person
 - second person
 - third person

3. “You never want to do anything that I want to do!”
 - first person
 - second person
 - third person

GP

Read through the opening to the fairytale below, written as a play, paying special attention to the key features we find in playscripts. Then, find and highlight (or point with your finger) to an example of each feature in the text.

Playscript Features

- ✓ Title
- ✓ Scene title
- ✓ Characters listed in each scene
- ✓ Stage directions in third person (Niko, he, she, they) written in brackets or italics
- ✓ Stage directions in present tense (verbs which are being done straight away)

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Scene 1

Characters: Goldilocks, Papa Bear, Mama Bear, Baby Bear

[Goldilocks is alone in the forest playing and gathering a bouquet of flowers. She chases a butterfly down a path into a wood clearing with a cozy cottage. Goldilocks skips up to the door and knocks loudly three times.]

Goldilocks: (calls out curiously) Hello?! Helloooo?! Is there anybody home?!!

[No answer. Goldilocks tries the door and it is unlocked. She enters the house slowly while looking around.]

DI

As you can see, playscripts are written in scenes (like book chapters) and each scene has a title, list of characters and clear stage directions to start each scene. Stage directions are also given throughout the scene, giving further directions to actors and stage crew.

In playscripts, we mainly write dialogue (words spoken) between the characters. There is no need to use speech marks or state who was speaking when writing a playscript as this is made clear in other ways.

Stage directions are always written in the third person using verbs in the present tense (in brackets or italics), for example:

[Goldilocks skips into the sun-filled kitchen.]
third person verb

When writing playscripts, you must begin writing on a new line with every new speaker, new stage direction and new scene. We do this so that it is clear to read (it also helps to miss a line between each speaker and stage direction so your writing is not too squished).

Be sure to always show who is speaking by placing the character's name followed by a colon on a new line:

Mother : That's a good idea.
speaker colon direct speech

IP

Read the opening to the following fairytale as it is told as a narrative you would read in a book. Your task is to transform the text into a playscript by including the key features we identified in this lesson. You can complete this assignment using the template below if you wish.

Little Red Riding Hood

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who lived in a village near the forest. Whenever she went out, the little girl wore a red riding cloak, so everyone in the village called her Little Red Riding Hood.

One morning, Little Red Riding Hood’s mother said her grandmother wasn’t feeling well and asked if she could go to visit her grandmother. Red hadn’t seen her grandmother in some time and suggested bringing a picnic.

"That's a good idea," her mother said. So, they packed a nice basket for Little Red Riding Hood to take to her grandmother.

When the basket was ready, the little girl put on her red cloak and kissed her mother goodbye.

"Remember, go straight to Grandma's house," her mother cautioned. "Don't dawdle along the way and please don't talk to strangers! The woods are dangerous."

"Don't worry, Mummy," said Little Red Riding Hood, "I'll be careful."

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