



Writing a playscript

Playscript fact sheet

A playscript contains the following:

- **Characters** — the people or animals in the story
- **Scenes** — the places where the action happens
- **Lines** — the words spoken by the characters (lines are based on the **dialogues** — the conversations or speeches — in the story)
- **Action** — what happens in the story
- **Stage directions** — what the actors do and how they speak

You write a playscript like this:

- Introduce the setting under the heading of **Scene**
- **Characters'** names are listed on the left, next to the lines they should speak
- Begin a new line for each speaker
- You don't need to include quotation marks for the characters' **lines**
- You can include a **narrator** to set the scene, introduce characters, etc.
- **Stage directions** should be written in the present tense. They are written in brackets and in italics, e.g. (*She sits down on a large chair next to the March Hare.*) Stage directions which tell the actor how to speak do not have a full stop and do not need to start with a capital letter, e.g. (*shouting*)

Here is an example from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (Level 1), pp. 27–28:

Characters

The March Hare

The Mad Hatter

Alice

Scene

A tea party under a tree in front of a house

March Hare & Hatter

(*crying out*) There is no room, no room!

Alice (*angrily*) There's a lot of room. (*She sits down on a large chair next to the March Hare.*)

March Hare (*friendly*) Have a glass of wine.

Alice (*She looks around the table.*) I don't see any wine.

March Hare (*calmly*) There isn't any.

Alice (*angrily*) Then it wasn't very polite of you to ask me to have some.