

Mastering the Stage: How to Write a Playscript

Lights, Camera, Action! Bring Your Stories to Life on Stage!

- A character list appears at the very beginning of a script to tell the actors and the audience exactly who is in the story.
- Stage directions are written in brackets or italics to explain how a character should move, speak, or feel, rather than being spoken aloud.
- Every new scene begins with a heading that describes the setting, such as 'Scene 1: Inside Leo's cosy library at sunset'.
- Dialogue is the conversation between characters that drives the plot forward and helps the audience understand the conflict.
- Playscripts are written specifically to be performed by actors on a stage, rather than just being read silently in a book.

Did you know? Did you know? In a playscript, the dialogue is not inside quotation marks! Instead, the character's name is written clearly in the centre or on the left-hand side to show exactly who is speaking to the audience.

Key vocabulary: Dialogue · Stage Directions · Character List · Scene Heading · Cast · Performance