

## Character Clash Instructions

As you wrote your story, did you remember that each speaker in your story inhabits his or her own paragraph? If you have forgotten this rule, you have a character clash!

*Example:*

Kelli said, "I want my band shirt back right now. You didn't have permission to borrow it." "No," said Paul, "but you didn't have permission to take my CD either, and I can see it on your desk."

The dialogue above should be written in the form of two paragraphs, as shown below:

Kelli said, "I want my band shirt back right now. You didn't have permission to borrow it."  
"No," said Paul, "but you didn't have permission to take my CD either, and I can see it on your desk."

In this mini-lesson, you will check the dialogues in your story for character clashes.

1. Count the speaking characters in your story.
2. Choose a highlighter or marker of a different color for each speaker (or if you're working on a computer, use different color fonts for each speaker).
3. With the first highlighter or marker, highlight the speech of the first character throughout your narrative.
4. Continue through your writing again for every additional speaker, using a different color for each one.
5. Now that you have color-coded each character's remarks, can you guess what you have if you see two or more colors in the same paragraph? That's right—a character clash!
6. Revise any character clashes by starting a new paragraph whenever the speaker changes.