

Vary Your Dialogue Tags!

Make sure you are choosing correctly and switch it up from time to time. Your reader will appreciate it!

“Nice work, authors!” shouted Ms. Hinueber.



Said is dead

...but *how* did they say it?



Normally?

stated

spoke

remarked

reported

added

As a question?

asked

inquired

requested

begged

As an answer?

answered

replied

responded

acknowledged

explained

Happily?

rejoiced

laughed

joked

giggled

sang

cheered

smirked

marveled

chimed

beamed

Loudly?

shouted

belted

yelled

screamed

exclaimed

boomed

called

Full of worry?

quaked

trembled

stammered

stuttered

gulped

Angrily?

demanded

hissed

fumed

thundered

snapped

sneered

barked

ranted

grunted

roared

bellowed

Bossily?

commanded

ordered

dictated

insisted

Sadly?

cried

sobbed

groaned

howled

whined

Quietly?

mumbled

muttered

whispered

Silently?

thought

wondered

pondered



words that describe someone's voice

breathy

adjective
with loud breathing noises

thin

adjective
a thin voice or sound is high and unpleasant to listen to

brittle

adjective
if you speak in a brittle voice, you sound as if you are about to cry

appealing

adjective
an appealing look, voice etc shows that you want help, approval, or agreement

fruity

adjective
a fruity voice or laugh is deep and strong in a pleasant way

gruff

adjective
a gruff voice has a rough low sound

dead

adjective
if someone's eyes are dead, or if their voice is dead, they feel or show no emotion

gravelly

adjective
a gravelly voice sounds low and rough

croaky

adjective
if someone's voice sounds croaky, they speak in a low rough voice that sounds as if they have a sore throat

disembodied

adjective
a disembodied voice comes from someone who you cannot see

small

adjective
a small voice or sound is quiet

hoarse

adjective
someone who is hoarse or has a hoarse voice speaks in a low rough voice

high-pitched

adjective
a high-pitched voice or sound is very high

adenoidal

adjective
if someone's voice is adenoidal, some of the sound seems to come through their nose

monotonous

adjective
a monotonous sound or voice is boring and unpleasant because it does not change in loudness or become higher or lower

husky

adjective
a husky voice is deep and sounds hoarse, often in an attractive way

flat

adjective
spoken in a voice that does not go up and down

guttural

adjective
a guttural sound is deep and made at the back of your throat

low

adjective
a low voice or sound is quiet and difficult to hear or deep sounding

nasal

adjective
someone with a nasal voice sounds as if they are speaking through their nose

raucous

adjective
a raucous voice or noise is loud and sounds rough

rough

adjective
a rough voice is not soft and is unpleasant to listen to

orotund

adjective
an orotund voice is loud and clear

grating

adjective
a grating voice, laugh, or sound is unpleasant and annoying

honeyed

adjective
honeyed words sound very nice but you cannot trust the person who is speaking

penetrating

adjective
a penetrating voice or sound is so high or loud that it makes you slightly uncomfortable

silvery

adjective
a silvery voice or sound is clear, light, and pleasant

rough

adjective
a rough voice is not soft and is unpleasant to listen to

ringing

adjective
a ringing sound or voice is very loud and clear

quietly

adverb
in a quiet voice

shrill

adjective
a shrill noise or voice is very loud, high, and unpleasant

smoky

adjective
a smoky voice or smoky eyes are sexually attractive in a slightly mysterious way

taut

adjective
used about something such as a voice or expression that shows someone is nervous or angry

strident

adjective
a strident voice or sound is loud and unpleasant

singsong

adjective
if you speak in a singsong voice, your voice rises and falls in a musical way

plummy

adjective
a plummy voice or way of speaking is considered to be typical of an English person of a high social class. This word shows that you dislike people who speak like this.

strangled

adjective
a strangled sound is one that someone stops before they finish making it

thick

adjective
if your voice is thick with an emotion, it sounds less clear than usual because of the emotion

matter-of-fact

adjective
used about someone's behaviour or voice

throaty

adjective
a throaty sound is low and seems to come from deep in your throat

tight

adjective
a tight voice or expression shows that you are nervous or annoyed

tremulous

adjective
it is not steady, for example because you are afraid or excited

wobbly

adjective
if your voice is wobbly, it goes up and down, usually because you are frightened, not confident, or are going to cry

wheezy

adjective
a wheezy noise sounds as if it is made by someone who has difficulty breathing