# Play Ball: Part Two

## Storytelling: Dialogue

1.  Imagine that this story was written in dialogue format instead of as a series of notes. You have already noticed that in a story, the writer indents each time a different character begins speaking. Often, the writer will also use a *dialogue tag* such as "he said," or "she said," to indicate who is speaking. Look at notes 11–13. If this were a dialogue instead of a series of notes, it might look like this:

    "Richard, I pitch," Janet stated.

    "Joel is moving to Kansas and Danny sprained his wrist. How about a permanent place in the outfield?" Richard asked.

    "I pitch!" Janet repeated loudly.

2.  In the passage above, circle each dialogue tag.

3.  Choose two other notes from the text and write them as a dialogue.

**Dialogue Practice 1:**

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**Dialogue Practice 2:**

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> ### GRAMMAR & USAGE
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> To write dialogue:
>
> - Place quotation marks at the beginning and end of a character's exact spoken words.
>
> - Indent each time you switch speakers.
>
> - Use a comma, question mark, or exclamation point to separate the speaker's words from the words telling who said them.
>
> - Place the punctuation mark before the closing quotation mark.

# Play Ball: Part Two

## Story Starter: Dialogue, Conflict, and Resolution

**Story Starter Writing Prompt:** In "The Southpaw," two friends have a disagreement, which they eventually work out. Choose one of the scenarios below and, on your own paper, write dialogue that shows how the friends disagree but work out, or *resolve*, their conflict. The resolution is an important part of a short story because it is where the reader learns the outcome of the conflict.

You may change a scenario if you choose. Be sure to use a variety of descriptive dialogue tags from your class list.

- One friend borrows the other friend's shirt but returns it with a ketchup stain.
- One friend goes to a dance with someone that the other friend does not like at all.
- One friend wants to go to a movie, but the other friend wants to go skating.
- A scenario of your own:

Once you have written your dialogue, pair up with another student and read your stories aloud. Think about how the dialogue tags help you read the dialogue with meaning.

## Reflection

Storytelling can take many forms. How is "The Southpaw" told? Think about this and other ways that stories can be told, and jot down your ideas.