Dialogues play a big role in any narrative. If you don’t include it in your stories, you may be doing something wrong. No one wants to sound like a ten year-old girl talking on the phone… “And he was like, and then I was like, and then he was like…” As Mark Twain said, “Don’t say the old lady screamed. Bring her on and let her scream.” Dialogue gives the characters the power to say what they want to without the help of a narrator. But there are rules. Follow these simple rules, and master dialogue once and for all.

1. **Keep it real…sort of**—When writing dialogue, you want it to sound like the person. Ideally, each person sounds a little different with different catch phrases. BUT if the way your character speaks is distracting and unintelligible, you have the job of translating it into a readable format for your audience.

2. **Dialogue is a story superhero**—Dialogue always has a purpose. If there is no reason for it in that scene, it should not be there. It should never just be a place for you as the writer to give your readed info. Dialogue has a lot of other important jobs: foreshadowing, propelling action, building characters, reminding the reader of important things, or setting the scene.

3. **Slang=Lame**—Using slang can sometimes be fun. However, too much slang will date your writing, making it only accessible to certain people in a certain time period. Many sci-fi writers get around this by creating a slang of their own to get the feel while still making it fit any time, but make sure you keep these to a minimum, and keep them consistent.

4. **What you see is not always what you get**—Sometimes characters say stuff they don’t mean. They lie. They avoid topics, they do all the stuff you do when you’re talking to other people, and sometimes that’s better. It’s pretty powerful to see a character saying things they don’t mean. It creates a built in secret between you and the character and helps build tension in the story.

5. **It’s all about balance**—A writer has to balance the talking with all the rest of the stuff going on in the scene. Things happen while people are talking. They rarely just sit still and chat. The world moves on around them. Use that action to balance the dialogue. However, beware of too much description in these scenes. It can often detract. Dialogue tags are also helpful in balancing the dialogue and helping the reader keep track of all the he said, she said.

Use these tips to create dialogue that will make your reader drool.