

476 Ways to Avoid Saying "Said"

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Great writers and editors agree that "said" is the most effective and least obtrusive dialogue tag. While these alternatives can add impact to a scene, use them sparingly when characters are...

...in general conversation.

added answered began chimed in	chipped in commented contributed greeted	interjected interposed interrupted introduced	mentioned read rejoined remarked	replied responded started stated	weighed in
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...talking at length.

babbled blabbered blathered chattered concluded continued	digressed ended enumerated finished gabbed harped	intoned lectured listed narrated nattered persisted	prated prattled preached rambled ranted rapped	rattled off rattled on recited reiterated repeated repeated	resumed trailed off waffled went on yapped
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...using a unique tone.

alliterated caroled chanter chirped chittered chorused clucked cooed	coughed cracked croaked crooned deadpanned drawled dribbled droned	echoed enunciated gagged gasped gawped gibbered grunted gurgled	hummed lilted lisped mewled neighed panted purred quavered	quoted rasped rhymed sang sibilated sighed simpered slurred	spluttered sputtered trilled tutted warbled wheezed whickered whinnied
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...speaking loudly.

bellowed boomed brayed burst out called	clamored cried out exclaimed hollered howled	resounded roared screamed screeched shouted	shrieked shrilled squealed thundered trumpeted	vociferated yammered yawped yelled yelped	yowled
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...speaking quietly.

breathed mouthed	mumbled	murmured	muttered	squeaked	whispered
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...revealing information.

announced argued articulated asserted assured attested avowed bet blabbed	blurted broadcasted cited claimed clarified confessed confided contended conveyed	declared described disclaimed disclosed divulged elaborated elucidated emphasized explained	exposed expounded gossiped indicated informed insisted maintained noted notified	observed offered opined passed on pointed out proclaimed professed pronounced recounted	related reported revealed shared specified stressed swore tattled testified
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...asking something.

appealed asked bargained	begged beseeched/besought enquired/inquired	entreated implored pleaded/pled	prayed probed queried	questioned quizzed requested	solicited wished
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...disagreeing with someone.

confuted contested contradicted corrected	countered defended demurred denied	denounced disagreed disputed doubted	expostulated objected protested rebuffed	recriminated refused remonstrated retaliated	retorted returned
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...agreeing with someone.

accepted acknowledged acquiesced	admitted affirmed agreed	allowed approved assented	asseverated conceded concurred	confirmed consented corroborated	granted verified
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...antagonizing someone.

accused admonished badgered baited berated bickered bossed bugged	censured challenged charged chastised chided condemned condescended criticized	cross-examined gloated harangued imitated insulted interrogated jeered leered	mimicked mocked nagged needled nitpicked pestered provoked rebuked	reprimanded reproached reproved ridiculed sassed scolded sneered snickered	taunted teased threatened tormented
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...angry or annoyed.

barked blustered carped complained crabbed cursed	exploded fumed gibed glowered griped groaned	grouched growled grumbled hissed huffed moaned	raged railed raved scoffed seethed shot	snapped snarled sniffed sneveled spat stormed	whined
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...suggesting or considering something.

alleged alluded assumed averred avouched calculated considered debated decided deducted deflected	determined equivocated estimated fibbed foretold guaranteed guessed haggled hedged hinted hypothesized	implied inferred insinuated interpreted intimated judged lied motioned mused pledged pondered	postulated predicted premised presupposed prevaricated proffered promised proposed put forth put in puzzled	reasoned recalled reckoned reconciled recorded remembered speculated stipulated suggested supposed surmised	theorized thought vacillated ventured volunteered vowed wondered
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...sad or nervous.

agonized apologized bawled bleated blubbered	choked comforted consoled cried cringed	faltered fretted fussed grieved keened	lamented mourned puled sniffled sobbed	stammered stuttered sympathized wailed	wept whimpered worried
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...happy or excited.

bantered boasted bragged bubbled cackled cheered	chortled chuckled complimented congratulated crowed effused	exaggerated extolled exulted giggled guffawed gushed	hooted jabbered jested joked joshed laughed	marveled praised quipped rejoiced snorted swooned	thanked whooped
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...trying to make someone do something.

advised beckoned cajoled cautioned coached coaxed	commanded convinced counseled dared decreed demanded	dictated directed encouraged enjoined exhorted goaded	instructed invited ordered persuaded pressed prodded	reassured recommended tempted touted urged	warned wheedled wooded
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