

Script

What is a script?

A script is a written text of a play, a film or television broadcast. It informs each member of the cast of the dialogue and the actions to be performed. It not only consists of character dialogue but also includes the stage directions, sound and lighting effects, props and costumes suggestions. A script should not be read like a novel. It can be difficult to follow the plot if a script is read like a novel. It's best to read a script the same way it would be acted out.

A play script is divided into Acts and Scenes. This is designed to allow for stage setting changes and allow the actors' time to change costumes. In-between acts, stage crew will usually change the setting and props that are on the stage to suit the scenes following.

Voice

The voice of plays can vary depending on the storyline of the play. Sometimes there might be monologues or soliloquies which would typically use first person voice. A script with dialogue between two or more cast members is in second person. When the narrator introduces the prologue or narrates sections of the play, film or television broadcast that would be done in third person.

Language & Grammar

The language of a play will vary according to the genre, intended audience and the setting. William Shakespeare's scripts were written in what we refer to today as Shakespearean language. With the evolution of language audiences today find it difficult to understand Shakespearean language. Some scripts will be musicals whereby the majority of the play will be sung rather than conversational dialogue.

- The speaker's name is usually written in capital letters
- A colon may be placed at the end of the speaker's name
- A new line is used every time there is a new speaker
- Stage directions are shown through the use of *italics* and brackets
- Sound and lighting effects are shown through the use of square brackets
- Numbers can be used throughout the text to show line numbers or act and scenes

Structure and Organisation

The structure and organisation of a script usually follows the plot structure used in narrative writing and is based on *Freytag's Pyramid*. Typically a script begins with a Prologue - a small chapter at the beginning which helps to set the scene and provide background information - and is followed by Acts which are broken down into Scenes.

Act 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Also known as the 'set-up'• This is where the action of the story is 'set-up'• This includes establishing characterisation, setting, mood
Act 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Also known as the 'complication'• A problem is created
Act 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Also known as the 'resolution'• The stories of the characters are completed• This can be 'closed' ending where all the plot points are concluded• This can be an 'open-ended' ending where some questions are left implied or unanswered

Exemplar Years 7 – 9

Exemplar Years 10 – 12