Writing Scenarios: Compelling Characters and Distinctive Dialogue

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# Name Generators

* [fakenamegenerator.com](https://www.fakenamegenerator.com/) (attribution required)
* [random-name-generator.com](https://www.random-name-generator.com/)
* [name-generator.org.uk/quick/](https://www.name-generator.org.uk/quick/)
* [ssa.gov/OACT/babynames/](https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/babynames/)
* [behindthename.com/random/](https://www.behindthename.com/random/)
* [looka.com/business-name-generator/](https://looka.com/business-name-generator/)
* [More details and options for name generators](https://www.christytuckerlearning.com/name-generators-for-learning-scenarios/)

# Character image sources

* [PowerPoint (in Stock Images)](https://insider.office.com/en-us/blog/add-cartoon-people-to-office-creations)
* [eLearning Art](https://elearningart.com/)
* [eLB Learning](https://library.elearningbrothers.com/) (formerly eLearning Brothers)
* [Open Peeps](https://www.openpeeps.com/) (free)
* [Freepik](https://www.freepik.com/) (free and paid)

# Practice Activity 1: Character

You are creating a new training program.

**Audience**: New and early career IDs with less than 2 years of experience

**Need**: IDs are asking for training to build skills working with SMEs due to conflicts. They’re having trouble with SMEs who want to include everything in the training, as well as SMEs who are skeptical about the value of elearning. Some recent projects have had significant delays due to conflicts between the IDs and SMEs.

**Objective**: Instructional designers will collaborate with SMEs to create effective and engaging elearning.

**Instructions**: Create a main character and add details.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Goals and motivation** |
|  |  |
| **Job, role, work environment** | **Problems, challenges, worries, fears** |
|  |  |

# Practice Activity 2: Dialogue

**Simon**

* Passionate SME
* Wants everyone to be as excited about this topic as he is
* Has been delivering in-person training for 10+ years
* Skeptical about elearning
* Worried important info will be lost online

**Instructions:** Rewrite this paragraph as dialogue between Simon and the character you created.

|  |
| --- |
| **Original paragraph** |
| Simon is skeptical that elearning can be an engaging experience. He is concerned that just listening to a recorded slide presentation will be boring. The ID tries to convince him. |
| **Your dialogue** |
|  |

# Practice Activity 3: Revise Dialogue

**Instructions:**

1. In groups of 2-3 people, read your dialogue from the last exercise aloud.
2. Add contractions to your dialogue as needed.
3. Revise your dialogue to sound more natural and conversational.
4. Read your dialogue aloud again to yourself or in your group.

|  |
| --- |
| **Your revised dialogue** |
|  |

# Practice Activity 4: Show, Don’t Tell

**Instructions**

1. Review your dialogue so far. Are you telling instead of showing? If so, revise it to be more descriptive and show.
2. Add body language or actions.
3. Check if your characters are too agreeable. Does Simon change his mind too easily?
4. Read your dialogue aloud again.
5. If you have time, revise it further or continue the conversation. Does this conflict have a resolution?

|  |
| --- |
| **Your revised dialogue** |
|  |

# Contact me

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