

# Features of a Play Script

## Key

Character names	Speech
Setting the scene	Character directions within speech
Stage directions	

No inverted commas are needed!

*The Mad Hatter, Dormouse and Hare are sitting at a table having afternoon tea.*

*Alice enters the scene, stage left.*

**Mad Hatter:** *(starts for a moment, pauses and a broad grin appears across his face. He gets up out of his chair and walks across the table towards Alice)*  
*It's you.*

**Dormouse:** *(exasperated)* No it's not! Hare brought us the wrong Alice!

**Hare:** *(gasps and throws his hands against his head)* It's the wrong Alice!

**Mad Hatter:** You're absolutely Alice, I'd know you anywhere!  
*(to the rest of the characters at the table)*  
I'd know her anywhere!

*Dormouse and Hare laugh maniacally.*

*Well, as you can see we're still having tea. You're terribly late you know... naughty.*

**Alice:** I'm incredibly intrigued.

**Mad Hatter:** Yes yes of course, but now we must get onto the Frabjous Day!

**Dormouse & Hare together:** FRABJOUS DAY!!

**Mad Hatter:** We're investigating things that begin with the letter M.

*(whispers)* Have you any idea why a raven is like a writing desk?



# Recognising Features of a Play Script

Read the following extract from the Little Red Riding Hood play script. Use coloured pencils to find examples of the following features in the text:

Narrator

Stage directions

Scene number

Theatre words

Brackets/parenthesis

Description of setting

## Scene 1 – Mother's Kitchen

*Lights up. The narrators, Big Rabbit and Little Rabbit, stand downstage.*

Little Rabbit: Big Rabbit, Big Rabbit, is it time for a story?

Big Rabbit: What story would you like?

Little Rabbit: Do you know the story of Little Red Riding Hood?

Big Rabbit: *(excited)* Of course I do! Let me just think how it begins. Ah yes, I remember!

*Lights up on a cottage on the outskirts of a great forest. It is a spring day.*

Big Rabbit: Once upon a time – and a very fine time it was – a girl called Red lived with her mother, in a cottage on the outskirts of a great forest.

*Mother takes a batch of fresh cupcakes from the oven and places them on the table.*

Mother: Little Red! *(bangs the rolling pin on the table)* Little Red! Time to get up.

Red: *(offstage)* Coming, Mother!

*Mother looks up at the clock (it's noon) and taps her foot angrily. Red enters the kitchen in a red cape. Seeing the cupcakes, she reaches out to take one, but her hand stops as Mother turns to glare.*

Red: These smell delicious. *(backing away)* You've been busy, Mother. Who are they for?

2

**Narrator**

**Stage directions**

**Scene number**

**Theatre words**

**Brackets/parenthesis**

**Description of setting**

Mother: They're for Granny, so keep your mucky fingers off. I didn't raise you to steal from little old ladies. Why, your poor granny lives alone in the forest, surrounded by fearsome creatures. The least I can do is bake her a cupcake or two every now and then.

Red: *(rubbing her tummy)* I wouldn't dream of touching Granny's cupcakes.

*Mother piles the cupcakes into a wicker basket, then puts her hands on her hips.*

Mother: *(huffing)* Now, you're to take this basket straight to Granny's. No dilly-dallying, keep to the path, and never ever talk to strangers. Do you hear me?

Red: *(sighing)* Yes, Mother.

*Red takes the basket and hurries from the kitchen.*

Big Rabbit: And with that, Little Red Riding Hood hurried from the kitchen into the glorious spring sunshine.

*Lights down.*

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Stage directions

Scene number

Present tense in stage directions

Theatre words

Brackets/parenthesis

Description of setting

Character names on the left

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*Lights down.*





# Writing a Play Script

Can you turn this piece of text into a play script?

First, colour in all of the **speech** in the text. Next, colour in anything which tells you **how the speech is said**. Finally, colour in anything which is **done but not said**.

The wolf scurried up to the cottage door on tiptoes, so as not to alarm Granny.

*Knock, knock, knock.*

“Who is it?” quavered a frail voice from inside.

“It’s me, Granny! It’s your granddaughter,” said Mr Wolf in a high, squeaking voice.

“The door’s unlocked, dear,” Granny called out. The wolf lifted the latch.

*Extract from the Twinkl Originals ‘Twist the Text’ Little Red Riding Hood Collection*

Now, write the correct parts of the story into the play script. **Don’t forget:**

- You don’t need to include speech marks.
- Your stage directions should be in the present tense.

The wolf scurried up to the cottage door on tiptoes, so as not to alarm Granny. He knocked at the door

Granny: (in a frail voice from inside) Who is it? ?

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Granny: The door’s unlocked, dear.

The wolf lifted the latch.

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# My Play Script

The characters in this scene are:

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The setting is:

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Character name	What is said

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