

Part B

Read Version 2 of the dialogue below. Highlight the places where there are differences between this version and Version 1.

Version 2

"Where are you going?" David asked.

*"I'm going home!" Julie **answered**.*

"I don't think you should." _____

"Why not?" _____

*"Tony will be here soon. He wants to talk to you," he **explained**.*

*"Well, I don't want to talk to him," she **declared**.*

*"It's important that we solve the problem as soon as possible," John **added**.*

*"It's your problem, not mine!" she **argued**.*

*"It's everyone's problem and you know it," John **continued**.*

*"I'm going!" Julie **insisted**. Immediately, she went to the door, opened it and walked out.*

The writer has made two types of revisions. What are they?

- The verbs 'said' and 'asked' are replaced by more descriptive verbs like 'answered', 'explained' and 'declared'.*
- The verbs 'said' and 'asked' are omitted when it is clear to the reader who is speaking.*

Discuss:

How have these revisions improved the dialogue? What else can the writer do to make further improvements? How can the writer make the conversation even more natural and realistic? How can he bring the characters to life?

(For answers, see Version 3.)

Part C

Now read Version 3 of the dialogue below. Highlight the places where there are differences between this version and Version 2.

Version 3

As Julie grabbed her bag and stood up, David asked, "Where are you going?"

"Home!" she answered sharply.

"I don't think you should."

"Why not?" She stared at him. She was beginning to dislike him.

"Tony will be here soon. He wants to talk to you," he explained calmly but firmly.

He looked into her eyes, waiting for her reaction.

"Well I don't want to talk to him," she declared. She was about to continue towards the door when John suddenly joined the conversation.

Not looking at either of them, he advised, "It's important that we solve the problem as soon as possible."

There was silence for a few seconds, as both Julie and David thought about their next move.

"It's . . ." Julie began, not yet sure of her words. "It's your problem, not mine!" she argued. She stood her ground, angry.

John continued, slowly but surely. "It's everyone's problem and you know it." Still he refused to look at her, which made her even angrier.

Seeing that neither John nor David was interested in listening to her, she decided it was better to leave.

"I'm going!" she insisted.

Without waiting for their response, she marched to the door, opened it and walked out.

Notice how the writer skilfully combines what the characters say with what they *think*, *feel* and *do*. The *words*, *thoughts*, *feelings* and *actions* all happen at the same time.