

Dramatic Pause Practice Answer Key

Sample Responses

1. Lines like "The *back* of the fridge?" and "Pause. You're *not* eating that, right?" benefit from pauses for tension and humor.
2. Pauses gave space for audience reaction and helped highlight key punchlines and emotions.
3. Dramatic pauses allow listeners to anticipate what comes next, creating suspense or humor.
4. Mia's lines relied more on timing. Her cautious tone and shocked reactions make the pauses emphasize disbelief and concern.

Teacher's Guide / Notes

- **Objective:** To help students understand that **fluency** includes not only reading speed but also **timing, emphasis, and expressive pauses** that enhance comprehension.
- **Before Reading:**
 - Model a few lines twice: once read straight through and once with intentional pauses. Discuss which felt more natural and expressive.
 - Explain that pauses help create rhythm, suspense, and humor in dialogue.
- **During Reading:**
 - Encourage students to use the slash mark (/) to show where a pause fits best.
 - Have them perform once without pauses, then again with pauses to compare effectiveness.
- **After Reading:**
 - Discuss which lines were funniest or most dramatic *after* adding pauses.
 - Reinforce that pauses communicate **emotion, timing, and clarity**, key to fluent oral reading.
- **Extension Options:**
 - Have students rewrite one scene, inserting stage directions for "(pause)" where they think it would fit.
 - Challenge groups to perform the same script in two tones: **serious** and **comedic**, using pauses differently each time.