

Instead of “Said”: Dialogue Words

Pick the word that shows how it was spoken

QUIET

breathed • whispered •
hushed • murmured •
confided • mumbled •
muttered

LOUD

called • exclaimed • cried
out • shouted • yelled •
snapped • barked • hollered •
bellowed • roared

ASKING AND PLEADING

asked • inquired •
questioned • demanded •
pleaded • begged • urged

ANSWERING

replied • answered •
responded • retorted •
countered

HAPPY

laughed • chuckled • giggled
• cheered • beamed • gushed

SAD OR WORRIED

sighed • sobbed • groaned •
moaned • wailed •
whimpered • stammered

TELLING

explained • announced •
declared • remarked • added
• observed • admitted •
warned • suggested •
insisted • agreed • joked

Tip: Plain “said” nearly disappears for the reader, so use it often. Choose a stronger word when it adds something.