Do's and Don'ts for Correct Dialogue

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:
[Your Guide to Writing Better Dialogue](#)

Do This:
- Do use dialogue to move the story.
- Do reveal important information about the character.
- Do keep it brief.
- Do make each character sound unique, with a different pattern of speech.
- Do create suspense through what's said and what's not said.
- Do honor the relationships between characters.
- Do read your dialogue aloud for flow.

Don't Do This:
- Don't include small talk in your dialogue— it can go on for too long.
- Don't info dump in your dialogue.
- Don't forget to be consistent with each character's voice.
- Don't allow your characters to say everything that they're feeling (it's unrealistic).
- Don't saturate your text with too many identifying tags like "said".
- Don't use other words like "enthused" or "panted" to replace "said"— it's distracting and less effective.
- Don't include salutations (hello and goodbye).
- Don't allow the characters to enter "speech" mode.