

Interpretation Script Cutting Examples

Here are the cutting rules with examples of how they look in a script, using an excerpt taken from Louisa May Alcott's book, *Little Women*.

Rule: Single words from separate sentences may not be strung together to create new sentences.

Excerpt:

"Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun; I'm sure we grub hard enough to earn it," cried Jo, examining the heels of her boots in a gentlemanly manner. "I know I do, — teaching those dreadful children nearly all day, when I'm longing to enjoy myself at home," began Meg, in the complaining tone again.

Example:

This is NOT allowed: **"Mother won't buy boots. I know those dreadful children!"**

Rule: An author's words may not be changed except for (a) combining phrases from several nearby sentences.

Excerpt:

"Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun; I'm sure we grub hard enough to earn it," cried Jo, examining the heels of her boots in a gentlemanly manner. "I know I do, — teaching those dreadful children nearly all day, when I'm longing to enjoy myself at home," began Meg, in the complaining tone again.

This IS allowed: **"I'm sure we grub hard enough to buy what we want," began Meg, in the complaining tone again.**

Rule: An author's words may not be changed except for (b) repeating an author's words even when the author does not do so.

Excerpt:

"Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun; I'm sure we grub hard enough to earn it," cried Jo, examining the heels of her boots in a gentlemanly manner. "I know I do, — teaching those dreadful children nearly all day, when I'm longing to enjoy myself at home," began Meg, in the complaining tone again.

Example:

This IS allowed: **"I'm sure we grub hard enough – HARD ENOUGH! – to buy what we want."**

Rule: An author's words may not be changed except for (d) pronoun substitution and verb tense.

Excerpt:

"Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun; I'm sure we grub hard enough to earn it," cried Jo, examining the heels of her boots in a gentlemanly manner. "I know I do, — teaching those dreadful children nearly all day, when I'm longing to enjoy myself at home," began Meg, in the complaining tone again.

Examples:

This IS allowed: **"She didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun; I'm sure we grub hard enough to earn it."**

This IS allowed : **"She is not saying anything about our money, and she doesn't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun; I'm sure we grub hard enough to earn it."**

This IS allowed : **"She didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. We each bought what we wanted, and had a little fun; I'm sure we grub hard enough to earn it."**

Rule: An author's words may not be changed except for (c) adding a single word from a nearby sentence for transition or character identification.

Excerpt:

"Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun; I'm sure we grub hard enough to earn it," cried Jo, examining the heels of her boots in a gentlemanly manner. "I know I do, — teaching those dreadful children nearly all day, when I'm longing to enjoy myself at home," began Meg, in the complaining tone again.

Example:

This IS allowed: **(spoken by Jo) "Meg, Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything."**

Rule: Reassigning one character's lines to another existing character from the literature selection is permitted, but creating new characters (including changing the name and/or gender of an existing character) is not permitted.

Excerpt:

"Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun; I'm sure we grub hard enough to earn it," cried Jo, examining the heels of her boots in a gentlemanly manner. "I know I do, — teaching those dreadful children nearly all day, when I'm longing to enjoy myself at home," began Meg, in the complaining tone again.

Examples:

This IS allowed: (spoken by Meg) **"Jo, Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything."**

This IS NOT allowed: (spoken by Jo) **"Martha didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything."** (Martha is not a character in the book.)

This IS NOT allowed: (spoken by Joe) **"Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything."** (Joe is not a character in the book; Jo's lines could be assigned to the male character Laurie (Teddy) but no new character may be created.)