

BARKS SAMPLE - WRITTEN BY ANDREW IVIMEY

The following is a barks writing sample for a fictional video game, FTL RACING, written by Andrew Ivimey. The setting is a racing game with spaceships. Different styles of ships race through dangerous galaxies and asteroid belts, avoiding obstacles while fighting each other. Racers have different gangs and guilds they have aligned themselves with. A playfully aggressive tone that's Borderlands meets Burnout. The barks are for two announcers who are broadcasting the race. JIM HEARTLAN, a traditional professional play by play announcer with a degree in broadcasting, a consummate professional (Marv Albert, Vin Sully, Al Michaels). FANG TIREBLOOD is the color announcer, a typical ex-player announcer, once a member of the most dangerous/villianous racing guild he moved over to broadcasting after a series of career ending injuries. Fang is a wild card and a little insane, but has a unique understanding of the game (Shaq, John Madden, Bob Uecker).

LINE	CHARACTER	MASTER SCRIPT	PARENTHETICAL
		Two announcers chatting before the beginning of the race	
1	Jim Heartlan	I'm Jim Heartlan, here with Fang Tireblood, and we've got another big day ahead of us for the FTL racing league.	idle chatter
2	Fang Tireblood	Big day, big night, Jim I've lost all circadian rhythm since living moving to our deep space broadcast station. But no matter what time it is, or even if you refuse to acknowledge linear time like myself, either way I'm excited. These racers are gonna put on a show for us today.	idle chatter
3	Jim Heartlan	haha. Right you are Fang. We've got a lot of talent out there on the starting line. Including some new up and comers.	idle chatter
4	Fang Tireblood	It really makes you wonder, what any of them were thinking choosing this as a profession.	idle chatter
5	Jim Heartlan	It's not for everyone that's for sure. FTL is a dangerous, fast paced, violent race. Not only are they racing against the clock, they are going to be dodging asteroid belts, gravity wells, and whatever each competitor has in store. Which is certain to include some violent surprises.	idle chatter
6	Fang Tireblood	Especially from the Spacers vengeance guild. They have a few racers out there today and they do anything it takes to win. I know, because I used to race for them.	idle chatter
7	Jim Heartlan	Maybe you can give us some insight into that, what exactly will they do to win?	idle chatter
8	Fang Tireblood	Unfortunately I can't talk about that until the statute of limitations runs out on my crimes.	idle chatter
9	Jim Heartlan	Wise choice Fang, that's why you were one of the best. I think they're getting ready to start now so let's head down to the action.	idle chatter
		A racer is knocked into a black hole	
10	Jim Heartlan	It looks like we've lost another racer to a black hole.	idle chatter
11	Fang Tireblood	Don't count them out though, sometimes a black hole will shoot you out somewhere else. They are mysterious and unpredictable.	idle chatter
		[PLAYER] moves into 1st place during the race	
12	Jim Heartlan	In an incredible turn of events, the mysterious new racer, unaligned with any guild, has taken first place.	idle chatter
13	Fang Tireblood	The guilds are not going to take kindly to that. That racer has a target on their back right now.	idle chatter
14	Jim Heartlan	Absolutely. Taking first place is one thing, holding it is another.	idle chatter
		A racer is hit by an asteroid	
15	Jim Heartlan	Quite a setback there. An asteroid collision is never what you want.	idle chatter
16	Fang Tireblood	I've hit an asteroid and let me tell you, it hurts. Which I don't understand because if there's no gravity, why does hitting it hurt. I thought everything was weightless.	idle chatter
17	Jim Heartlan	It has invariant mass that has relativistic energy due to your inertia.	idle chatter
18	Fang Tireblood	Well it sure does hurt I know that much.	idle chatter
		[PLAYER] falls into last place during the race	
19	Fang Tireblood	See, this is why I think we need to do entrance exams. We can't just let anybody race.	idle chatter
20	Jim Heartlan	Certainly a disappointing performance by the new challenger. You hate to see it.	idle chatter
21	Fang Tireblood	I hate to see anything Jim, I wake up screaming.	idle chatter
		Announcers make conversation during the race	
22	Jim Heartlan	Fang, as a former FTL racer yourself, what do you think is the key to victory?	idle chatter
23	Fang Tireblood	Well you gotta go faster then the other people, that's how races work.	idle chatter
24	Jim Heartlan	And is there any particular strategy you employed to do that?	idle chatter
25	Fang Tireblood	You gotta not care if you live or die. That's what made me so good. I was stabbed once and was legally dead for 4 minutes. I've seen the other side so I'm not scared of it.	idle chatter
26	Jim Heartlan	What an experience that must have been. What was waiting for you on the other side Fang?	idle chatter
27	Fang Tireblood	It's just this life again, that's why I don't fear death, I know it's all a cycle with no escape. The other side of this life is yourself, starting back at you in the dark, waiting.	idle chatter
28	Jim Heartlan	You heard it here. There's no way to escape this mortal coil. Grim stuff Fang. So, good luck to all you racers!	idle chatter
		A ship explodes	
29	Fang Tireblood	That's why you shouldn't smoke if you work in the engine room.	matter of fact
30	Fang Tireblood	Well... that ship no longer exists, which is probably gonna be a set back for them.	thoughtful
31	Fang Tireblood	OH NO! OH GOD WHY!? WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS!? ... Why would god make this sport so damn entertaining. That was cool as hell.	scared to energetic
32	Jim Heartlan	Another racer falls victim to the dangers of FTL racing	matter of fact
33	Jim Heartlan	We have a racer down. This does not look good.	empathetic
34	Jim Heartlan	That's one less racer for the others to worry about.	calm

[PLAYER] finishes in 1st			
35	Jim Heartlan	Wow. A shocking upset in FTL travel today. The new mystery racer, with no guild or assistance, has come in 1st.	<i>enthusiastic</i>
36	Jim Heartlan	An impressive display from FTL's hot new pilot.	<i>matter of fact</i>
37	Fang Tireblood	I can't believe it, what a finish! I really thought that racer was gonna die, I wrote an obituary and everything.	<i>shocked</i>
38	Fang Tireblood	I know as a commentator I'm supposed to remain neutral. But this new pilot is cool as hell. I think I'm in love.	<i>impressed</i>
[PLAYER] finishes in last			
39	Fang Tireblood	Sometimes in any sport there's an underdog who inspires us all and beats the odds... This new racer is not that. Stinks. Just brutal.	<i>insulting</i>
40	Fang Tireblood	Well, that went about as well as they could have hoped.	<i>matter of fact</i>
41	Jim Heartlan	An expected placing from the rookie. They'll really have to make some adjustments in the future if they want to avoid relegation.	<i>matter of fact</i>
42	Jim Heartlan	A tough finish for the young racer. You gotta hope they come back better next time.	<i>empathetic</i>

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