

Teacher Notes



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Symbols



I do: my turn to talk. This is the explanation section of our lesson where you are required to listen.



We do: this is where we discuss or work on the concepts together.



You do: your turn to be involved. You may be working in a group or on an activity individually.

Using Quotation Marks in Narrative Writing

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What Are Quotation Marks?

Quotation marks (also known as speech marks) are a form of punctuation. They are commonly used in narrative texts.

Quotation marks are used by writers to show which words are being spoken by a character, rather than the narrator. This is called 'direct speech'.

Sentences which include direct speech usually contain:

- the words spoken by the character
- the words spoken by the narrator.



Writing Direct Speech - Example 1

Some sentences containing direct speech begin with the words of the **narrator**, followed by the words of the **character**.

The boy detective said, "It's time to look for clues."

narrator's words

character's words



Writing Direct Speech - Example 2

Some sentences containing direct speech begin with the words of the **character**, followed by the words of the **narrator**.

“It’s time to look for clues,” the boy detective said.

↑
character’s words

↑
narrator’s words



Writing Direct Speech – Example 3

Some sentences containing direct speech begin and end with the words of the **character**, with the **narrator** interrupting the speech.

“It’s time,” **said the boy detective**, “to look for clues.”

↑
character’s words

↑
narrator’s words

↑
character’s words



Writing Direct Speech - Activity

As a class, add the missing quotation marks to this text.

Mum, I can see Superman! exclaimed Michael.

Mum replied, Are you sure, Michael?

I am totally sure, said Michael, that it's Superman!

Superman looks a lot like your dad, Mum said.

Michael asked, Has he been in my dress-up box again?

I think, said Mum, that maybe he has!



Writing Direct Speech - Answers

Did you find all the missing sets of quotation marks?

“Mum, I can see Superman!” exclaimed Michael.

Mum replied, “Are you sure, Michael?”

“I am totally sure,” said Michael, “that it’s Superman!”

“Superman looks a lot like your dad,” Mum said.

Michael asked, “Has he been in my dress-up box again?”

“I think,” said Mum, “that maybe he has!”



Quotation Marks - Punctuation Rules

You should now understand why quotation marks are used and where they should be placed in a sentence containing direct speech.

However, quotation marks are not the only punctuation marks used in a sentence containing direct speech. You also need to know when and where to use commas, question marks, exclamation marks and full stops.



Punctuation and Direct Speech - Rule 1

There is always a punctuation mark **at the end of the direct speech**, before the closing set of quotation marks. This could be a full stop, a comma, a question mark or an exclamation mark.

“Have you ever seen such a hideous witch?” Tim asked.

“I don’t think she’s hideous,” Jeremy replied.

“Oh but she is! She’s awful!” Tim argued.

Jeremy replied, “I suppose you’re right.”



Punctuation and Direct Speech - Rule 2

There is always a punctuation mark **at the end of a sentence**.
Remember, the sentence contains both direct speech and narration.
Sometimes, the direct speech will end the sentence. Other times, the narration will end the sentence.

“What a majestic lion!” Lizzy exclaimed.

Leo huffed, “Majestic? I think not!”

Lizzy asked, “How would you describe him?”



Punctuation and Direct Speech - Rule 3

There is always a comma **following the saying verb** if the narration comes before or in the middle of the direct speech.

Jean said, “The water is really refreshing.”

“I might jump in,” Toby replied, “when I warm up.”

Jean called, “Come in now! It’s lovely!”

“I will come,” Toby said, “when I’m ready!”



Punctuation Rules - Activity

As a class, add all the missing punctuation to this text.

Happy birthday Anne's friends called as they
jumped out from behind the furniture

Anne was shocked What is everyone doing here she
asked in a confused voice

We're celebrating your birthday David replied You
didn't think we'd forget did you

What a wonderful surprise Anne said Thank you



Punctuation Rules - Answers

“Happy birthday!” Anne’s friends called as they jumped out from behind the furniture.

Anne was shocked. “What is everyone doing here?” she asked in a confused voice.

“We’re celebrating your birthday,” David replied. “You didn’t think we’d forget, did you?”

“What a wonderful surprise,” Anne said. “Thank you.”



Using Quotation Marks - Review

Look at the characters talking on each of the following slides.
As a class, use quotation marks to record using direct speech.
Here is an example:



Raj

I love writing stories.

Reading stories is more fun.



Melissa

“I love writing stories,” said Raj happily.
Melissa replied, “Reading stories is more fun.”



Using Quotation Marks - Review 1



Michael

I'm running
faster than
ever before!

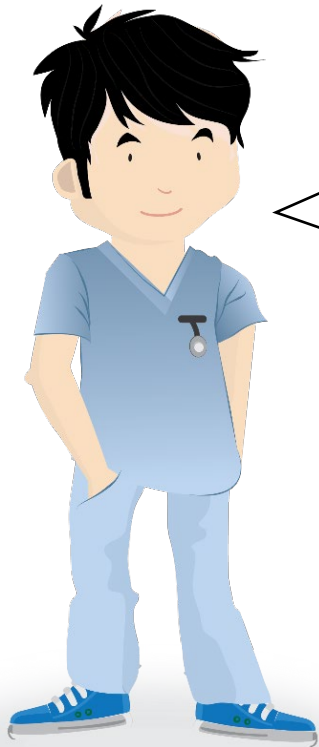
Don't knock
me over,
please!



Granny Smith



Using Quotation Marks – Review 2



Nurse Dan

Remember
to rest that
leg of yours.

Don't worry,
I will make
sure I do!



Harrison

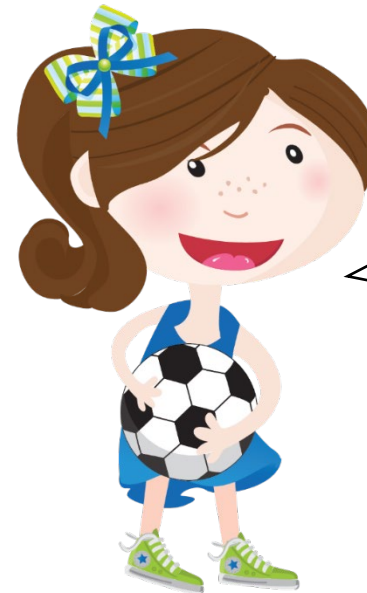


Using Quotation Marks - Review 3

Are you going
to come and
help me?



Elijah



Jessie

Sorry, I'm
busy playing
football!



Using Quotation Marks - Activity

Choose two of the characters below. Write a conversation between these characters, where each character speaks at least twice. Try to remember the rules for using quotation marks.

