

Inverted Commas for Direct Speech

Warm-up



Inverted Commas

There are two places where inverted commas are needed when writing direct speech:

“What’s the matter, Dina?” said Sid.

Inverted Commas

Inverted Commas

You need to **open** your inverted commas with a “ (66) before the first word which is being spoken.

You need to **close** your inverted commas with a ” (99) after the last word **which is being spoken**.

Imagine that inverted commas are like hands;
They hold within them **only** the words which are being spoken.

Back



“What’s the matter, Dina?”



said Sid.

Punctuation

There are two places where other forms of punctuation are needed when writing direct speech:

“What’s the matter, Dina?” said Sid.

You need to end the speaking with:

- a comma
- a question mark, if it is a question.
- an exclamation mark, if it is an exclamation.

You will need to finish your sentence with a full stop after the reporting clause.

Examples of other punctuation in direct speech are:

“How exciting it is!” exclaimed Sarah.

“I don’t know what to do,” said Sayeed.

Back

Reporting Clauses

After the speech itself, a reporting clause gives a little bit of information about **who is speaking** and **how it was said**.

“What’s the matter, Dina?” **said Sid**.

Reporting Clauses

In this case, Sid is speaking.

If Sid said it in a different way, you could change ‘said’ to...



“What’s the matter, Dina?” **asked Sid**.

“What’s the matter, Dina?” **whispered Sid**.

“What’s the matter, Dina?” **uttered Sid**.

“What’s the matter, Dina?” **shouted Sid**.

Back

It's Your Turn...

Here is a conversation between three friends. Write the direct speech on a whiteboard using inverted commas and the correct punctuation.

Remember: new speaker, new line!

What are your plans for tonight?



Lisa

I don't really have any.



Janine

Do you fancy going out for a meal?



Alex

Example Answers

How did you do? Did you remember the **inverted commas**, **punctuation** and **reporting clause**?



“What are your plans for tonight?” asked Lisa.
“I don’t really have any,”
replied Janine.
“Do you fancy going out for a meal?” said
Alex.

It does not matter if you used said, asked, exclaimed or any other reporting verb – just don’t forget to mix it up a bit in your work. The same reporting verb too many times can get boring.

Choose one of the pictures from the next few pages. Can you write a short conversation?

WAGOLL



“Say Cheese,” said Froggy.
Froglet made a pose.
“Cheese,” she replied grinning madly.
“Lovely,” commented Froggy.

Froggy Freeze Frame

Write what each frog is saying using the correct speech punctuation...



Froggy Freeze Frame 2

Write what each frog is saying using the correct speech punctuation...



Speedy Speech

You have two minutes to write a line of direct speech for the man and the statue in the picture...



Speedy Speech

You have two minutes to write a line of direct speech for each of the boys in the picture...



Correctly Punctuate the Speech

Below are all examples of incorrectly punctuated speech.
Tell your partner why they are incorrect and correct them on
your whiteboard.

“You need to get off the bus here” said the driver.

Stop annoying me! shouted Sophie.

“Who goes there” grumbled the troll.

“What a beautiful day it is! rejoiced Sheila.”

“That’s all the money I have, explained Frank.

Correctly Punctuate the Speech

Did you manage to correct these sentences?

“You need to get off the bus here,” said the driver.

“Stop annoying me!” shouted Sophie.

“Who goes there?” grumbled the troll.

“What a beautiful day it is!” rejoiced Sheila.

“That’s all the money I have,” explained Frank.