

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

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.

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!
Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“We’re having roast chicken on Sunday,” said James.

Yes

No

The inverted commas are not being used correctly. Where should they be?

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!
Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“I didn’t win at bowling but I still had fun,” said Ruksana.

Yes

No

How did you know that it was correct?

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!
Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“Yes you can come to my party,” said Niamh.

Yes

No

There are no inverted commas! Where should they be?

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!
Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“I’ve never been to France,” stated Cody.

Yes

No

Which sneaky piece of punctuation is missing from this direct speech?

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!
Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“Where have I left my keys?” asked Dad crossly.

Yes

No

They've even included an adverb in the reporting clause. Way to go!

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!
Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“I am an expert at punctuating direct speech,” bragged the teacher.

Yes

No

This teacher is an expert. Now you are too!

