

Dialogue

Direct Dialogue: speech using the character's exact words. In this case, quotation marks are used.

Indirect Dialogue: a second-hand report of something that was said or written but **NOT the exact words** in their original form.

Punctuating Dialogue

Rule #1

Place Quotation Marks around the words that are actually spoken by the character.

Example:

“Help me!” exclaimed the girl.

The teacher stated, “This assignment will be graded.”

Punctuating Dialogue

Rule #2

Place ending punctuation (periods, commas, questions marks, etc.) inside the end quotation mark.

Example:

Matthew said, “I want to try out for the baseball team.”

“Where is the gymnasium?” asked Jose.

“Watch out!” shouted the officer.

Punctuating Dialogue

Rule #3

Place proper punctuation at the end of the sentence.

Example:

“Who should hold the tickets?” asked Melissa.

“The media center is open after school,” said John.

Punctuating Dialogue

Rule #4

Always begin a new paragraph when the speaker changes.

Example:

“Rehearsals just ended,” Sue explained. “Can you pick me up at the entrance to the school?”

“Yes, I will be there shortly,” responded her mother.

Punctuating Dialogue

Rule #5

Capitalize the first word of what the person says, even if it occurs in the middle of a larger sentence.

Example:

Andrew asked the teacher, “Can we use our notes for this quiz?”

The students told Mrs. Harmon, “Middle school is harder than elementary.”

Dialogue Tags

Two primary purposes:

- They tell readers who is speaking or the source of the quotation.
- They show the readers actions related to the comments.

Examples: he said
 she explained
 they wondered