

Mastering Speech Marks: The Talkative Tally

Don't let your dialogue go missing—put your characters' words inside the speech marks!

- Always open your speech with a pair of 66 marks and close it with a pair of 99 marks. Example: “I love reading!” said Pip.
- The punctuation for the spoken sentence (like a full stop, comma, or exclamation mark) must go INSIDE the closing speech marks.
- If a reporting clause follows the speech, use a comma inside the speech marks instead of a full stop. Example: “That is a star,” whispered Nova.
- Start a new line every time a new person begins to speak to keep your story clear for the reader.
- Capitalise the first letter of the speech inside the marks, even if it is in the middle of your sentence.

Did you know? Did you know? In the 17th century, printers used to use small marks called 'guillemets' to show speech, but over time, the English language adopted the floating pairs we use today, often called 66 and 99 marks!

Key vocabulary: Inverted commas · Direct speech · Reporting clause · Punctuation · Dialogue · Closing marks