

Year 4 English Assessment: Mastering Speech Marks

Learning objective: To correctly use and punctuate direct speech using inverted commas (speech marks) and appropriate reporting clauses.

Read the sentences carefully. Use your knowledge of punctuation to add speech marks, commas, and capital letters where they are needed. Ensure you follow the rules for reporting clauses.

Pip the caterpillar and Max the monkey were exploring the garden. Pip found a shiny leaf and wanted to show it to his friend. Max was busy counting the petals on a flower. Suddenly, Nova the owl flew down from her tree to see what was happening. The three friends sat together to talk about their day.

Word bank: inverted commas · reporting clause · punctuation · direct speech · capital letter

1. 1. Look at this sentence: Max said I have found five flowers. Rewrite this sentence adding the missing speech marks and the correct punctuation. (2 marks)

2. 2. Explain why we use a comma inside the speech marks when the reporting clause comes after the spoken words (e.g., 'Hello,' said Pip). (2 marks)

3. 3. Rewrite the following dialogue using correct punctuation: Ellie asked where are we going today. Finn replied we are going to the deep blue sea. (4 marks)

4. 4. Change the position of the reporting clause in this sentence: 'Look at the stars,' whispered Nova. (Place the reporting clause at the beginning of the sentence). (3 marks)

5. 5. Identify the error in this sentence and explain how to fix it: Pip shouted, 'i love reading books!'" (4 marks)

6. 6. Write a short conversation (at least four lines) between Zara the zebra and Kit the fox. They are discussing a pattern Zara has painted. You must use speech marks, capital letters, and varied reporting clauses for each line. (10 marks)

Draw: Draw a speech bubble coming from Pip the caterpillar. Inside the bubble, write a short sentence using speech marks to show Pip is talking to his friend.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Write a paragraph where a character is asking a question within their speech. Remember to place the question mark inside the speech marks!