

Mastering Speech Marks with Max the Monkey

Unlock the secrets of speech: Don't just tell the story, let your characters speak!

- Always place inverted commas around the words actually spoken: "I love maths!" said Max.
- Use a comma to separate the speech from the reporting clause: "Pass me the ruler," requested Max.
- Start the spoken words with a capital letter, even if it is in the middle of a sentence.
- Punctuation such as full stops, question marks, or exclamation marks must go **INSIDE** the inverted commas.
- Start a new line every time a new person speaks to make your dialogue easy to follow.

Did you know? Did you know? In the 16th century, writers didn't use speech marks at all! Authors had to rely on phrases like 'he said' to show who was talking. It wasn't until much later that the symbols we use today became the standard way to show exactly what someone has said aloud.

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