

# Mastering Speech Marks with Max the Monkey

*Learning objective: To correctly use and punctuate direct speech using inverted commas (speech marks) according to Class 5 grammar standards.*

Read each flashcard to learn the rules of direct speech. Use these cards to test your knowledge of how to punctuate dialogue in your stories.

**What are the marks called that we use to show someone is speaking?**

Inverted commas (or speech marks).

**Where should the speech marks be placed in relation to the spoken words?**

They go around the outside of the spoken words only.

**What type of letter must always start the speech inside the inverted commas?**

A capital letter.

**Max the monkey says: 'I love maths puzzles.' Where does the full stop go?**

Inside the closing inverted comma: 'I love maths puzzles.'

**If the reporting clause (e.g., 'said Max') comes after the speech, what punctuation do you need before the closing speech mark?**

A comma, question mark, or exclamation mark.

**Rewrite this correctly: Pip said I am reading a book.**

Pip said, "I am reading a book."

**What is a 'reporting clause'?**

A phrase that tells us who is speaking, such as 'Max shouted' or 'Pip whispered'.

**If you use a question mark inside the speech, do you still need a comma before the reporting clause?**

No, the question mark replaces the comma.

**Correct this sentence: 'Hello' said Nova the owl.**

"Hello," said Nova the owl.

**Why do we use new lines for new speakers in a story?**

To help the reader understand that a different character has started talking.

**Punctuate this: Max asked do you like bananas?**

Max asked, "Do you like bananas?"

**Where does the reporting clause go if it is placed in the middle of a sentence of speech?**

It is separated by commas, e.g., "I love," said Max, "solving puzzles."