

Mastering the Art of Speech Marks

Step into the story: Let your characters find their voice!

- **Where do inverted commas go?** They must wrap around the exact words spoken by a character, like a pair of tiny, protective arms.
- **What happens to the punctuation inside?** Always place the closing punctuation (like a comma, full stop, or question mark) inside the inverted commas before you close them.
- **How do I introduce speech?** Use a reporting clause—like 'Max shouted' or 'Pip whispered'—to tell the reader who is talking. Remember to use a comma to separate the speech from the reporting clause.
- **Why do we use a new line for a new speaker?** Whenever a different character starts to speak, you must begin a new paragraph to keep your writing clear and organised.
- **Does capitalisation matter?** Yes! Always begin the very first word of the spoken sentence with a capital letter, even if it follows a comma.

Did you know? Did you know? In the 17th century, printers used tiny metal marks called 'signifiers' to show where a person was speaking. Today, we call them inverted commas, but they are still the secret key to bringing your characters to life on the page!

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