

Mastering Speech Marks with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To correctly use and punctuate direct speech using inverted commas (speech marks) according to Grade 4 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 math puzzles.' Where does the full stop go?

Inside the closing inverted comma: 'I love math 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."