

Direct Quotation

A direct quotation is a speaker's or writer's exact words.

Quotation marks

“...” are used before and after the words of a speaker.

Punctuation should be included in the quotations!

Use quotation marks in *dialogue* to set off a speaker's or writer's exact words. Always capitalize the first word of a quotation.

Example:

Mrs. Teacher said, “ I didn't have a chance to drink my coffee this morning!”

When a quotation comes **at the end of a sentence**, use a comma before the quotation to separate it from the words that name the speaker or writer. Put the punctuation inside the quotation mark.

Example:

Jane explained, “Oh no Mrs. Teacher didn’t drink her coffee this morning!”

When a quotation that is a statement or a command comes at the beginning of a sentence, put a comma inside the closing quotation marks.

Example:

“Those sneakers are really nice,” Jake said.

“I have almost saved enough money to buy them,” he added.

Example:

Amy said, “I can teach you new soccer skills.”

Comma



A yellow arrow points from the word 'Comma' to the comma in the sentence 'Amy said, “I can teach you new soccer skills.”’. Another yellow arrow points from the words 'Direct Quotation' to the opening quotation mark of the same sentence.

Direct Quotation

Example:

“Please teach us some soccer skills,” requested Jane.

Direct Quotation



Comma

Do not use quotation marks when you do not use a speaker's or writer's exact words.

Example:

Jane said, "Let's begin to research our assignment."

Jane said we should begin to research our assignment.

Now we can try!

Where should we place the quotation marks?

1. Jane claimed her favorite sport is soccer.
2. Liam said, Jane scored three goals at her last game.
3. She even scored the winning goal, Liam shouted.

If you said...

Where should we place the quotation marks?

1. Jane claimed her favorite sport is soccer.

No quotation because no exact words were used.

2. Liam said, "Jane scored three goals at her last game."
3. "She even scored the winning goal," Liam shouted.

Remember...

1. Punctuation goes inside the quotation marks.
2. Always capitalize the first word of a quotation.
3. Use a comma before the quotation to separate it from the words that name the speaker or write.