

# Be the Teacher!

Inverted commas are used to show direct speech in your writing; they are placed before and after the words a character says. For example:

**“Pass the sauce,” said Jill.**

Read the sentences below and tick the sentence which is punctuated correctly using inverted commas.

1. “I don’t like carrots,” said the little girl.   
I don’t like carrots, “said the little girl.”
2. “It’s time for bed, said” Dad.   
“It’s time for bed,” said Dad.
3. Write the date in your book, the teacher told “the children.”   
“Write the date in your book,” the teacher told the children.
4. “Let down your hair,” the knight shouted to the princess.   
Let down your hair, “the knight shouted” to the princess.
5. Abracadabra! said the witch “as she cast a spell.”   
“Abracadabra!” said the witch as she cast a spell.
6. “The cat chased me through the garden,” whispered the mouse.   
The cat chased me through the garden, “whispered the mouse.”
7. “Jim ate all the jam,” Katie told her mum.   
“Jim ate all the jam Katie,” told her mum.

**Challenge:** Add inverted commas to the sentence below:

**Where is my shirt? asked Guy.**

# Punctuation Challenge 1

In writing, we show what a character is saying by adding **inverted commas** or **speech marks** ( “ ” ) before and after the words a character says. For example:

**“I went there yesterday,”** said the man.

The words between the inverted commas (in **bold**) are what the man says. If the direct speech isn't a question or an exclamation sentence, then **before closing the inverted commas**, you usually place a comma ( , ) to separate what was said from who said it.

**Add inverted commas to the sentences below. Don't forget to add the comma too.**

1. We went to Spain on holiday said Charlie.
2. I like to cast wicked spells laughed the evil witch.
3. I saw the new film at the cinema last week said Jake.
4. I had cereal for my breakfast today Susie stated.
5. You go that way whispered Harriet to her friend.
6. My favourite drink is lemonade pronounced the boy.
7. I'm going to see my Grandma muttered Little Red Riding Hood.
8. Hello from the International Space Station uttered Tim.
9. Put down your pencils and look this way demanded the teacher.

# Punctuation Challenge 2

When writing direct speech, you should always insert an appropriate punctuation mark before the closing inverted commas. You can use a **comma** ( , ) a **question mark** ( ? ) or an **exclamation mark** ( ! ). A ? is used at the end of questions and a ! is for sentences that are exclamations, or that show shock or surprise. For example:

**“Wow!”** shouted the girl.

In each of the sentences below, choose which would be the most appropriate punctuation ( , ! or ? ) and add it to the sentence before the closing inverted commas.

1. “I will blow the house down ” roared the big, bad wolf.
2. “What planet is this ” asked the alien when he landed.
3. “I’ll see you later ” said Dad as he left the house.
4. “Stop ” shouted the policeman to the burglar.
5. “My job is collecting teeth ” the Tooth Fairy said.
6. “Can I have a toy castle for my birthday ” begged the boy.
7. “You’re only allowed to have three wishes ” stated the magic genie.

**Challenge:** Now it’s your turn! Using the picture below, write a direct speech sentence with inverted commas, which also includes either a ? or an !

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