

PUNCTUATING DIRECT SPEECH

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zvftsbk>

There are two types of speech: direct and reported.

Direct speech	Reported/Indirect speech
Quotes the exact words which have been spoken.	Reports a summary of what a person has said – has the same meaning but doesn't necessarily use the same words .
Usually in the present tense.	In the past tense.
<u>Inverted commas are placed around what the speaker says.</u>	Doesn't use speech marks.

Ready for a challenge?

Copy these sentences in your book and decide whether each sentence is direct or reported speech.

Sentence	Direct / Reported
Dad told me he was tired.	
Josh explained that he supported Chelsea.	
"I wish I could come too!" replied Jess	
"Umm..." Ella pondered thoughtfully, "I think blueberries are probably my favourite fruit."	
Mr Turner described the terrifying sight of a wooden ship with black sails attacking the harbour.	

e.g. Dad told me he was tired. Reported speech.

Self Assessment using different colour.

Sentence	Direct / Reported
Dad told me he was tired.	Reported
Josh explained that he supported Chelsea.	Reported
"I wish I could come too!" replied Jess	Direct
"Umm..." Ella pondered thoughtfully, "I think blueberries are probably my favourite fruit."	Direct
Mr Turner described the terrifying sight of a wooden ship with black sails attacking the harbour.	Reported

Let's try to convert between direct and reported speech in your book.

Direct speech	Reported speech
"If I had to pick just one, I'd say blue is my favourite colour," said Noah.	
	Jess asked if I was busy that night.

Reported speech is a simple, but effective, way of moving stories on. Instead of having a main character retell a whole series of events (which can take pages of dialogue!) you can simply write that they *explained what had happened*.

Self Assessment using different colour.

Direct speech	Reported speech
"If I had to pick just one, I'd say blue is my favourite colour," said Noah.	Noah told me his favourite colour was blue.
"Are you busy tonight?" asked Jess	Jess asked if I was busy that night.

“ Speech marks or Inverted Commas ”

They are used to show when someone is speaking.

Although it may look complicated, by following just a few simple rules you can become an expert at punctuating direct speech!

1. Place " " around the words which are spoken.
2. Use a capital letter at the start of a speech sentence (even if it is in the middle of another sentence).
3. Before you close your speech marks use a comma, question mark or exclamation mark to separate what was said from the speaker.
4. If a new person speaks, start a new line.

Kevin replied,
"No, definitely
not."

'No' is capitalised
because it is the
start of the speech
sentence.

"I'll race you
there!" said Isla.



"You'll win then,"
murmured Emery,
"you're much faster
than I am."



'you're'
doesn't need
a capital
letter
because it is
not the start
of the speech
sentence.

Reporting
clause

Reporting Clause

Direct speech will almost always need a **reporting clause**.

A reporting clause tells the reader who the speaker was and how they spoke.

For example: "I came 1st!" **shouted Frank excitedly**.

A reporting clause can come before, after or split the direct speech. For example:

Location	Sentence
Before	Dan asked hungrily , "Do you know what time lunch is?"
After	"Do you know what time is lunch is?" Dan asked hungrily .
Embedded	"Do you know," Dan asked hungrily , "what time lunch is?"

Varying the location of the reporting clause keeps your writing interesting for the reader.

Punctuating Direct Speech

Copy the sentence and underneath rewrite it with a correct speech punctuation.

Steps to Success:

1. Put speech marks around what the speaker says,
2. Start each speech sentence with a capital letter
3. Place a piece of punctuation before closing your inverted commas.

- What time are we going out asked Anna.
- Yasmin shouted look out
- Besides said Sally thoughtfully what was she doing there anyway

Self Assessment using different colour.

- What time are we going out asked Anna.
"What time are we going out?" asked Anna.
- Yasmin shouted look out
Yasmin shouted, "Look out!"
- Besides said Sally thoughtfully what was she doing there anyway
"Besides," said Sally thoughtfully, "what was she doing there anyway?"

Rewrite this section of text using the correct punctuation in your book.

Remember: New speaker, new line.

did you eat the last doughnut Hannah asked her little brother. no
I had carrot sticks for my snack replied Zac innocently. then
where questioned Hannah did the sugar all around your mouth
come from. smiling mischievously, Zac responded I'm not sure, but
it definitely wasn't from your doughnut

Self Assessment using different colour.

"**D**id you eat the last doughnut?" Hannah asked her little brother.

"**N**o, I had carrot sticks for my snack," replied Zac innocently.

"**T**hen where," questioned Hannah, "**d**id the sugar all around your mouth come from?"

Smiling mischievously, Zac responded, "**I**'m not sure, but it definitely wasn't from your doughnut!"

Keep a thesaurus handy and refer to it when writing dialogue to keep your writing interesting.



Play a game:

<http://flash.topmarks.co.uk/5007>