

Inverted Commas

You might need to write some speech. Unfortunately that means learning how to use inverted commas, but they're not that tricky, I promise...

Inverted commas show someone is speaking

These are inverted commas:  “ ”

- 1) Inverted commas go around the actual words that someone says.
- 2) Use a capital letter when someone starts to speak.

These inverted commas are sometimes called speech marks.



Nick said, “Catching butterflies is sometimes tricky.”

Put a capital letter here.

Inverted commas go at the start and end of speech.



Speech always ends with a punctuation mark

Speech ends with a comma, full stop, exclamation mark or question mark.

- 1) If the sentence ends when the speech ends, use a full stop:

You need a comma before the speech starts.

Josh said, “I’m really hungry.”



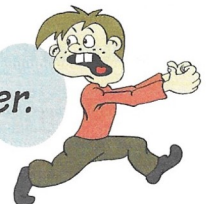
- 2) If the sentence carries on after the speech, put a comma (unless it's a question or exclamation):

“We should buy some cheese,” said Tom.

- 3) If the speech shows strong feelings, end it with an exclamation mark:



“Stop what you’re doing!” shouted the police officer.



- 4) If the speech is a question, use a question mark:



Ravi asked, “Can we go home yet?”