

Inverted commas

“b”

We often write about what people say to each other. When we write someone's exact words, we use **inverted commas**. They are also called speech marks.

The words inside inverted commas always start with a capital letter. The person who says the words can come before or after the words themselves.

Sam said, “Look at this map.”

“Look at this map,” Sam said.



In the sentences below, the person who says the words comes first. Notice that we add a comma **before** the inverted commas. The speech inside the inverted commas can end with a full stop, a question mark or an exclamation mark. This always comes **inside** the inverted commas.



Mum asked, “What are you doing?”

Lucy said, “I’m building a house.”

The rules are slightly different if the person who says the words comes **after** the inverted commas. The speech inside the inverted commas still begins with a capital letter, and it still ends with a comma, a question mark or an exclamation mark. However, it shouldn't end with a full stop.



“What are you doing?” Mum asked.

“I’m building a house,” Lucy said.