

Punctuating Dialogue 1

A conversation in writing is called *dialogue*. There are special rules for using quotation marks, commas, and end punctuation marks when you are punctuating dialogue. (See 598.1 and 600.1 in *Write Source* for more information.)



Examples

“I’m bored,” said Clara. “Let’s go shopping.”

(A period comes after “Clara” because that’s the end of a complete sentence.)

“Oh yeah,” replied Sue, “there’s a great sale at the mall.”

(A comma comes after “Sue” because what follows completes the sentence.)

“Let’s go now, Sue!” Clara yelled.

(The exclamation point is inside the quotation marks because the quotation is an exclamation.)

Directions

Punctuate the following examples of dialogue with quotation marks, commas, and end marks. The first sentence has been done for you.

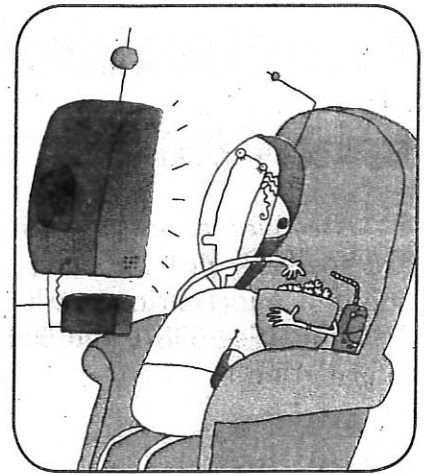
- 1 ^{ss/}Hey, Joe, there’s a bee on your back^{!//} yelled Carlyle. Hold still
- 2 while I swish it away
- 3 Everyone be quiet and take your seats said Mr. Beech
- 4 But what about the bee said Joe I could be stung
- 5 Just sit still. It won’t sting you if you stop jumping around
- 6 advised Mr. Beech
- 7 It’s a known fact added Carlyle that bees only sting if you scare
- 8 them
- 9 Real funny, Carlyle. Now just get it off me pleaded Joe.

Punctuating Dialogue 2

When you are writing dialogue, you have to start a new paragraph each time the speaker in a conversation changes. (See 598.1, 598.2, and 600.1 in *Write Source* for more information.)

Directions

Add quotation marks, commas, and end punctuation as needed. The first sentence has been done for you.



1 [“]What’s there to do around here?[”] José asked.

2 Why don’t you do something to improve your mind suggested his
3 father. Here’s an article about native wildflowers that you could read

4 Uh, thanks, Dad José said That sounds fascinating

5 What about reading short stories such as A Start in Life from
6 your literature text asked his mom. I’m sure you won’t read them all
7 in class

8 I’ve been dying to do that José said but I’m already trying to finish
9 three chapters in my social studies book

10 You could attend a lecture at the community center his older
11 brother volunteered. I heard that the basket weaving session is
12 awesome.

13 You guys are really helpful said José but I have to go. I just
14 remembered I have to watch a video I rented. See you later.

Next Step Re-create a conversation you recently had with someone. Make sure to punctuate the conversation correctly.

Name _____

To Quote or Not to Quote?



Some of the following sentences contain direct quotes. Some of them do not. Add capital letters, commas, and quotation marks only where they are necessary. Some sentences will require no changes.

1. Mr. Fires said that he should have our car fixed by Friday afternoon.
2. Mrs. Fields reminded me you don't have to get a perfect score; you just have to do your best.
3. Candy explained I was named after my aunt, not after a food!
4. Tony asked if I could help him with his homework.
5. Fred told me never to touch an electrical appliance with wet hands.
6. Samatha told me that my grandmother will be in town next week.
7. This is an excellent CD Anthony proclaimed.
8. Uncle Jack told me that he would be in town next week.
9. Mom told me don't tell Dad what we got him for Christmas.
10. Nancy said she was planning to attend the Petersons' housewarming party.

Name _____

Correct Quotations



Rewrite each sentence, adding quotation marks around each person's exact words.
Use capital letters and other punctuation marks where they are needed.

1. mom when does the dinner party start asked larry

2. that was the best movie i've ever seen exclaimed marcus.

3. before the big test, my teacher reminded us erase your first choice completely if you decide to change your answer.

4. marty said she would be here by three o'clock cecil reported.

5. royal said i like to play volleyball

6. the whole team chanted we are the champions we are the champions

7. have you ever been to this restaurant before tiasha cindy asked

8. you will get a good grade on today's test i told myself.
