Inverted Commas



Hello, Hello, Hello!

With your partner, read out Leon and Aisha's conversation.



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Hello, Hello, Hello!

Whole Class



Hi Aisha.
I like your
new top.

Thank you,
it is new. I wore it
for my birthday
party.



What if a text has no speech bubbles?

How can we turn this speech into a text?

‘Hi Aisha. I like your new top,’ said Leon.

‘Thank you, it is new. I wore it for my birthday party,’ replied Aisha.

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Hello, Hello, Hello!

Whole Class



‘Hi Aisha. I like your new top,’ said Leon.

‘Thank you, it is new. I wore it for my birthday party,’ replied Aisha.



This **direct speech** uses **inverted commas.**

‘Hi Aisha. I like your new top,’ said Leon.

They look like commas floating in the air!

Inverted commas mark the **beginning** and **end** of direct speech.

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Different Names

Inverted commas can also be called:

Speech marks

Quotation marks



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Beginning and End

Keep your speech marks at the beginning and the end of the words being spoken.

“Lower please!” I said.



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New Speaker, New Line

Start a new line whenever someone new speaks.

“How are you doing today?” asked Henry.
“I’m great!” said Ashton.



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Capital Letters

Begin the direct speech with a capital letter.

“What an amazing day!” he announced.



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Punctuation

Make sure your speech is correctly punctuated.
This includes a piece of punctuation before closing the inverted commas.

“There are times, I feel that you are a little cold,”
I said.



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Reporting Clause

Include in your sentences information about who is speaking and even how they are speaking. This is called the reporting clause.

“There are times, I feel that you are a little cold,” I said.



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Inverted Commas

There are two places where inverted commas are needed when writing direct speech:

“What’s the matter, Dina?” said Sid.

Inverted Commas

Inverted Commas

You need to **open** your inverted commas with a “ (66) before the first word which is being spoken.

You need to **close** your inverted commas with a ” (99) after the last word **which is being spoken**.

Imagine that inverted commas are like hands;
They hold within them **only** the words which are being spoken.



“What’s the matter, Dina?” **said Sid.**



Back

Punctuation

There are two places where other forms of punctuation are needed when writing direct speech:

"What's the matter, Dina?" said Sid.

You need to end the speaking with:
- a comma
- a question mark, if it is a question.
- an exclamation mark, if it is an exclamation.

You will need to finish your sentence with a full stop after the reporting clause.

Examples of other punctuation in direct speech are:
"How exciting it is!" exclaimed Sarah.
"I don't know what to do," said Sayeed.

Back

Reporting Clauses

After the speech itself, a reporting clause gives a little bit of information about **who is speaking** and **how it was said**.

"What's the matter, Dina?" **said Sid**.

Reporting Clauses

In this case, Sid is speaking.

If Sid said it in a different way, you could change 'said' to...



"What's the matter, Dina?" **asked Sid**.

"What's the matter, Dina?" **whispered Sid**.

"What's the matter, Dina?" **uttered Sid**.

"What's the matter, Dina?" **shouted Sid**.

Back

Hello, Hello, Hello!



On whiteboards, try these with you partner.

Remember that direct speech needs the inverted commas **and** a relevant punctuation mark.

I enjoy playing at the park murmured Ameera.

The sun is out and the sky is blue replied Jay.

My friends make me smile explained Beatrice.

I love Fridays commented Reuben.

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Hello, Hello, Hello!



Answers

‘I enjoy playing at the park,’ murmured Ameera.

‘The sun is out and the sky is blue,’ replied Jay.

‘My friends make me smile,’ explained Beatrice.

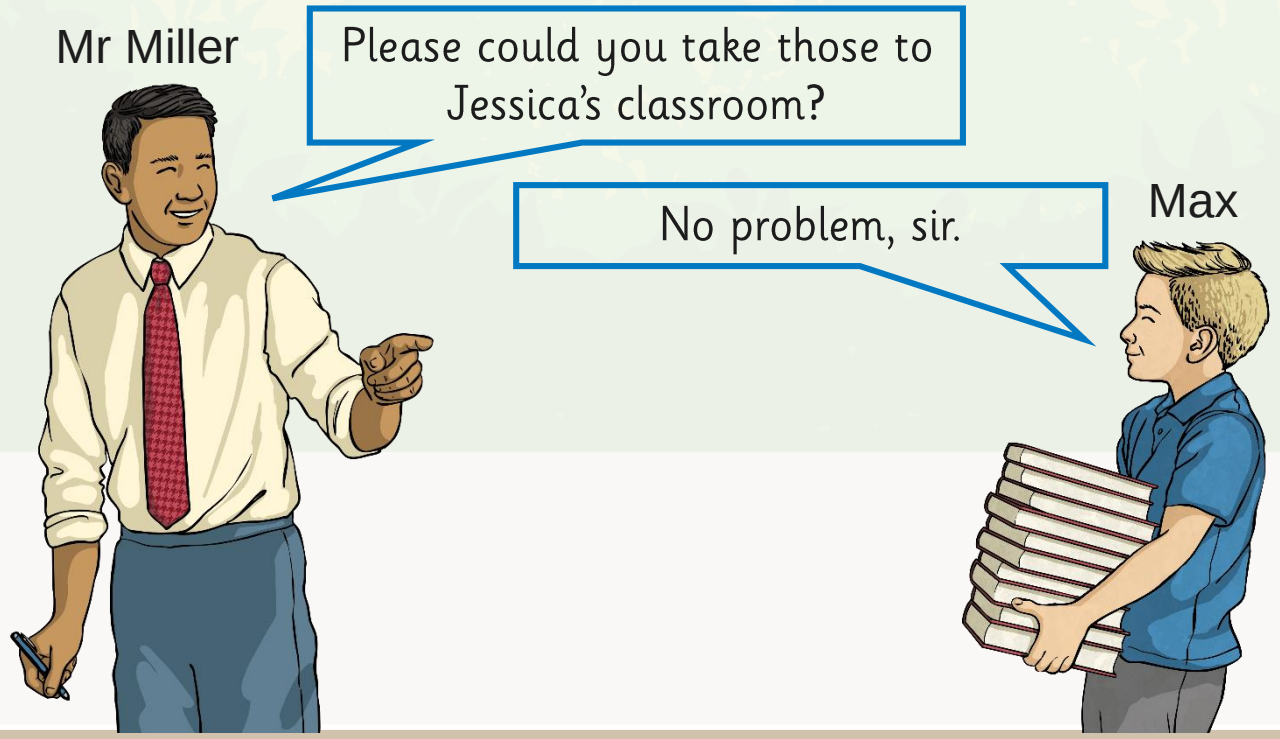
‘I love Fridays,’ commented Reuben.

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It's Your Turn...

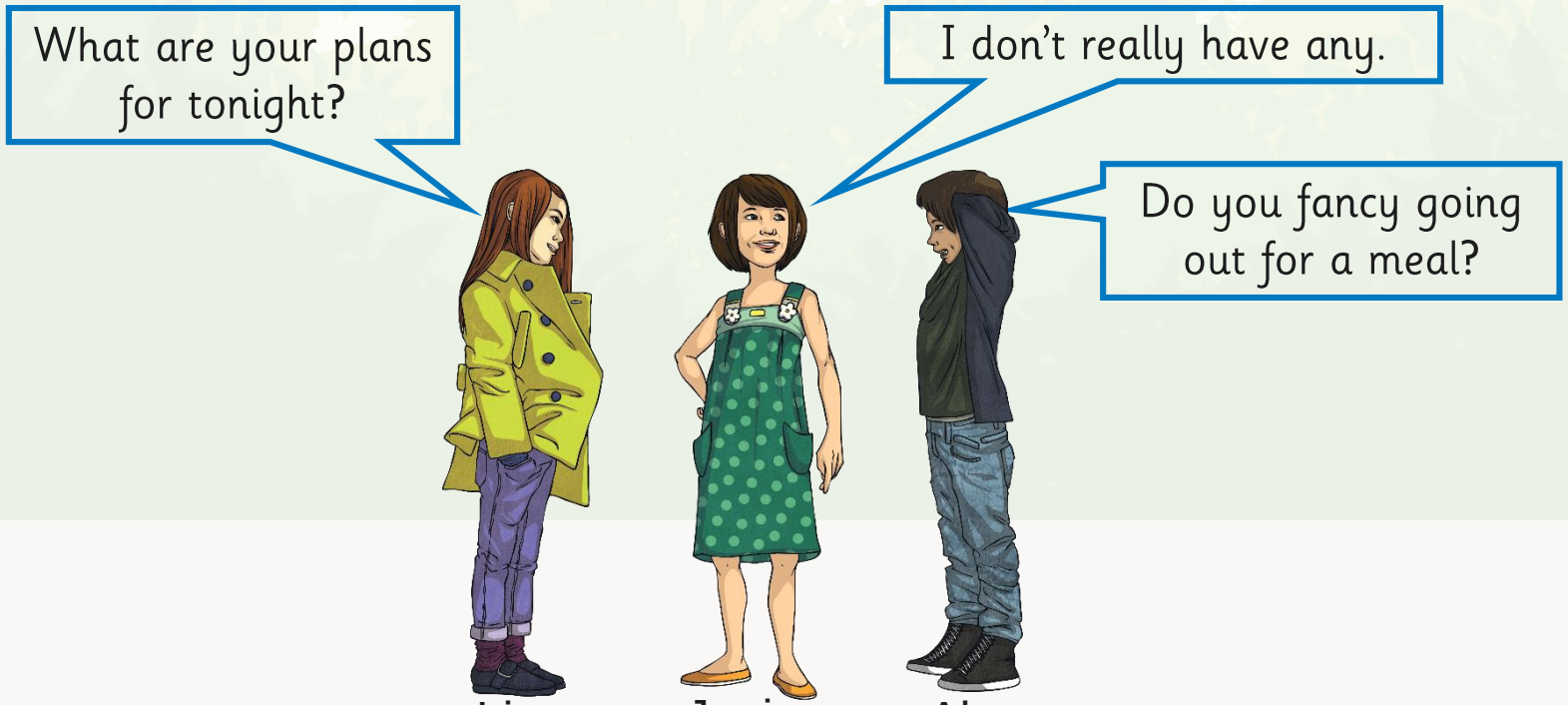
Here is a conversation between Mr. Miller and Max. Write the direct speech on a whiteboard using inverted commas and the correct punctuation.

Where more than one person is talking, remember to start new line for each new speaker.



It's Your Turn...

Here is a conversation between three friends. Write the direct speech on a whiteboard using inverted commas and the correct punctuation.
Remember: new speaker, new line!



Example Answers

How did you do? Did you remember the **inverted commas**, **punctuation** and **reporting clause**?



"Sunil, can you come and help me send an email?" shouted Aminah.





"What are your plans for tonight?" asked Lisa.
"I don't really have any," replied Janine.
"Do you fancy going out for a meal?" said Alex.

"Please could you take those to Jessica's classroom?" asked Mr Miller.
"No problem, sir," replied Max.

It does not matter if you used said, asked, exclaimed or any other reporting verb – just don't forget to mix it up a bit in your work. The same reporting verb too many times can get boring.

Correctly Punctuate the Speech

Below are all examples of incorrectly punctuated speech.
Tell your partner why they are incorrect and correct them on your whiteboard.

You need to get off the bus here” said the driver.

Stop annoying me! shouted Sophie.

“Who goes there” grumbled the troll.

“What a beautiful day it is! rejoiced Sheila.”

“That’s all the money I have, explained Frank.

Correctly Punctuate the Speech

Did you manage to correct these sentences?

“You need to get off the bus here,” said the driver.

“Stop annoying me!” shouted Sophie.

“Who goes there?” grumbled the troll.

“What a beautiful day it is!” rejoiced Sheila.

“That’s all the money I have,” explained Frank.

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“We’re having roast chicken on Sunday,”said James.

Yes

No

The inverted commas are not being used correctly. Where should they be?

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“I didn’t win at bowling but I still had fun,” said Ruksana.

Yes

No

How did you know that it was correct?

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“ Yes you can come to my party,” said Niamh.

Yes

No

There are no inverted commas! Where should they be?

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“I’ve never been to France,” stated Cody.

Yes

No

Which sneaky piece of punctuation is missing from this direct speech?

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“Where have I left my keys?” asked Dad crossly.

Yes

No

They’ve even included an adverb in the reporting clause. Way to go!

Direct Speech Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Is this speech punctuated correctly?

“I am an expert at punctuating direct speech,” bragged the teacher.

Yes

No

This teacher is an expert. Now you are too!