

# 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. (Turn to 399.1, 399.2, and 400.1 in *Write Source 2000* 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," joked Keith, "I'd just love to get a new dress."**

(A comma comes after *Keith* because what follows completes the sentence.)

**"What you really need, Keith, is a new address!" Clara shot back.**

(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.

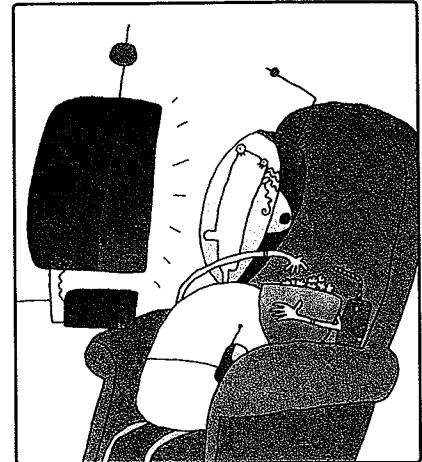
- 1 "Hey, Joe, there's a bee on your back," yelled Carlyle. "Hold still
- 2 while I swish it away
- 3 Everyone be quiet and take your seats said Mr. Beech
- 4 But what about the bee said Joe I could be seriously stung
- 5 Just sit still. It won't sting you if you stop jumping around
- 6 advised Mr. Beech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

# Punctuating Dialogue 2

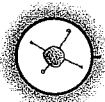
When you are writing dialogue, you have to start a new paragraph each time the speaker in a conversation changes. (Turn to 399.2 and 400.1 in *Write Source 2000* for more information.)

## Directions

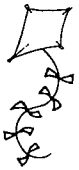
Add quotation marks, commas, and end punctuation as needed. The first sentence has been done for you.



- 1     <sup>“</sup>What’s there to do around here?<sup>”</sup> 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.



direct quotation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Peter's Pizza

Quotation marks are used to enclose **direct quotation**. The end punctuation usually comes before the final quotation mark at the end of the quote. Always capitalize the first word of direct quotation. Do not capitalize the first word in the second part of an interrupted quotation unless the second part begins a new sentence.

*Cameron said, "Would you like pizza for dinner?"  
"Yes, that sounds good!" replied Angela. "I'll call Peter's and order one."  
"After you order it," responded Cameron, "we will need to find some money."*

Rewrite the following sentences by adding the correct punctuation and capitalization.

1. hello, this is Peter's Pizza how may I help you greeted Eric

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2. i'd like a large pizza please Angela replied

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3. What would you like on that Eric asked

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4. I'll have pepperoni and anchovies said Angela

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5. i'm sorry to tell you began Eric but we are out of pepperoni

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6. oh, that's okay Angela responded i'll just have anchovies then

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Continue Angela's conversation with Cameron when she gets off the phone. Write 4 more sentences with direct quotation.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_





# Gossip

A **direct quotation** is the use of someone's exact words. It is always set off with quotation marks. An **indirect quotation** is the writer's description of someone else's words. It does not require quotation marks.

*direct:* Brent said, "Max is bringing the dog to the vet."  
*indirect:* Brent said that Max is bringing the dog to the vet.

For each of the following sentences, write **DQ** (direct quotation) or **IQ** (indirect quotation) on the line. Then add quotation marks wherever they are needed.

## The Orange Hair

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Jennifer asked, Did you see Rae's hair? It is bright orange!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. She dyed it herself! added Jordan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Yeah, sneered Tamara, she needs a wig.

## The Surprise Party

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I'll see you at the party! declared Paige.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What party? asked Maya.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Steve's brothers are giving him a surprise birthday party, answered Paige, and everyone is going.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Maya said that she would love to go, too.

## The Joke

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Don't look now, warned Jeff, but Robby is about to drink his pop.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. So what? Anna questioned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Dan told Anna about the plastic worm that they had dropped in Robby's cup.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Jeff then said that Robby had just spit his pop across the table.

## The Romance

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Sarah mentioned that Rachele was crazy about Emilio.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. No way! interjected Kate. He's such a creep!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Maybe, but he's gorgeous, reminded Allison.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Too bad, added Tamara, because he likes Stacey Pool.

