

Teaching the Boring Stuff Series

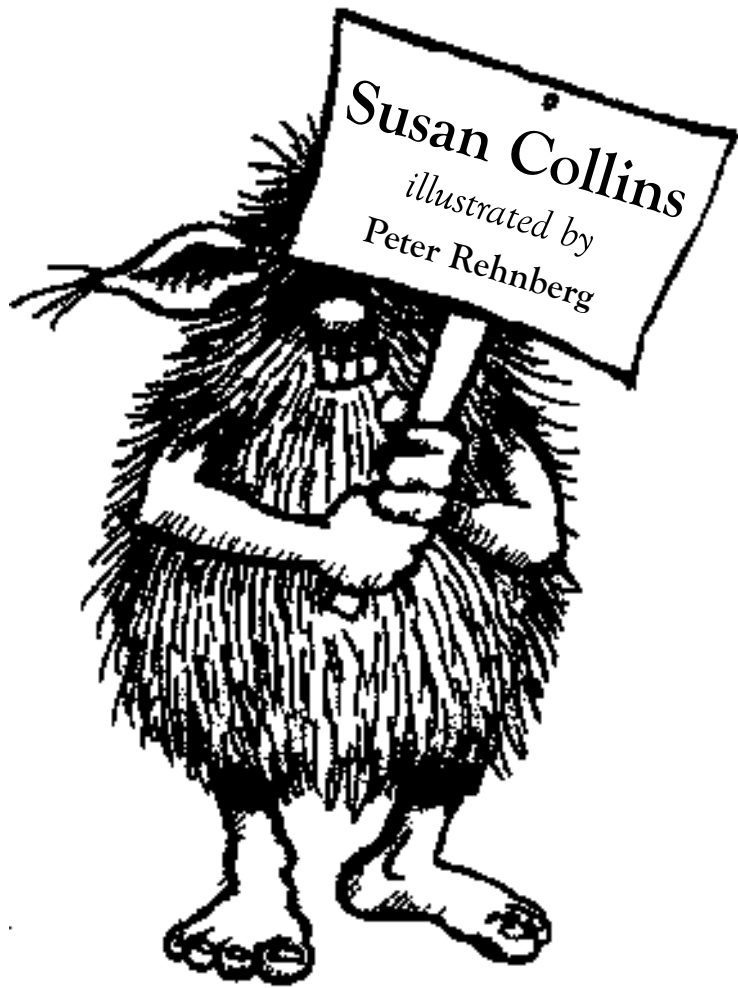
“ ” QUOTATION MARKS “ ”

Teaching the basics
about quotation marks,
without putting students
to sleep “ ”

**SUSAN
COLLINS**

ILLUSTRATED BY **PETER REHNBERG**

Quotation Marks



Teaching the Basics
About
Quotation Marks
Without Putting
Students to Sleep

Cottonwood Press, Inc.
Fort Collins, Colorado

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Requests for permission should be addressed to:

Cottonwood Press, Inc.
109-B Cameron Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

E-mail: cottonwood@cottonwoodpress.com
Phone: 1-800-864-4297
Fax: 970-204-0761
Web: www.cottonwoodpress.com

ISBN #978-1-877673-37-5
E-Book ISBN #978-1-936162-12-3

Printed in the United States of America

For my husband Terrell and my son Brett.

You are my life.

And to my parents, Bob and Irene Mackey, and for Carole, Rhonda, Steve and Sandra.

Thank you all for believing in me.

I love you all.

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Quotation Marks in Dialogue

Quotation marks are like shoes –
They usually come in pairs.

Quotation marks are used to show us exactly what a person has said.
Look at this sentence:

“I just love barbecued worms,” said Gwendolyn.

The quotation marks show us what Gwendolyn said. Notice that one mark goes before Gwendolyn’s words, and one goes after her words. Quotation marks always come in pairs. If you see one quotation mark (“), you should see another one (”) not too far behind.



DIRECTIONS

In the sentences that follow, some quotation marks have been omitted. Place the missing quotation marks wherever they are needed in the sentence.

1. “I just love going to the mall and shopping for new shoes, Molly the snorpweedle said.
2. Oh, me too,” Gilda the bumblewort replied.
3. “The only problem is finding the shoes I like in my size, said Molly.
4. “I know what you mean, Gilda said sympathetically. “With my webbed feet, I can never find any sandals that fit.”
5. “I don’t know why you even bother to wear shoes, Molly said, glancing at her friend’s duck-like feet.
6. “Even bumbleworts who live in the water like to look stylish when attending swamp parties, said Gilda.
7. Well, of course. I don’t know what I was thinking,” Molly said to her friend. “I’ve got an idea. Let’s buy the same shoes, and then we can look like twins.
8. Gilda replied, That’s a good idea, but can we split a second pair so we can each have a third shoe? I just hate for the foot in my ear not to match my other two.

BONUS

Imagine you are at the mall and see Molly and Gilda shopping. Just for fun, draw them wearing their new shoes. What are they saying to each other? Below the drawing, write out their conversation, using quotation marks.

Quotation marks are like cartoon bubbles —
They show exactly what came out of a person's mouth.



When you draw a cartoon, you use a “bubble” to show what a character is saying. When you write, you use quotation marks instead.

When you write someone's words as a quotation, put the exact words inside quotation marks. Don't put expressions like *he replied* or *she said* inside the quotation marks. After all, the person probably didn't say *he replied*.

DIRECTIONS

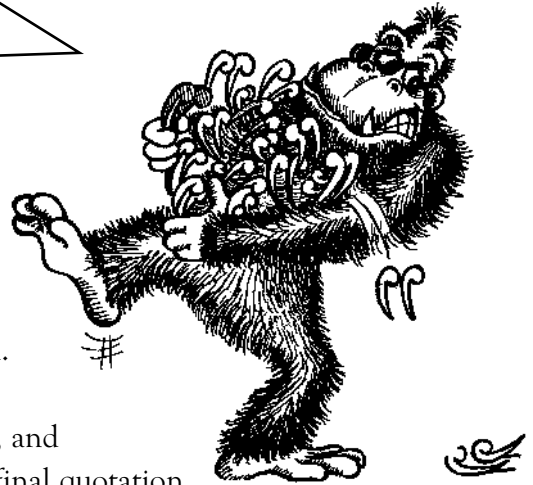
Answer the questions below by inventing quotations. For each quotation, be sure to identify the person who is speaking by using an expression like *Joe said* or *asked Marilyn*. Example:

What did Frankenstein say when he saw his new bride?

Frankenstein said to his new bride, “Honey, have you seen the remote?”

1. What did the mummy say when he finally got the bandages off of his mouth?
2. What comment did the alien make when he saw all the pollution on Earth?
3. What great words of wisdom did the ghost say to the teachers at the conference?
4. What words did the monster use to persuade the little kid to look under her bed?
5. What did the frog say to keep the chef from making a frog leg casserole?

Don't use more
quotation marks than
you really need.



You already know that when you are writing, you should put quotation marks around a person's words. But what do you do if a person says *a lot* of things?

Don't use more quotation marks than you really need. For example, don't put quotation marks around each individual sentence. Put one at the start of the quotation, and then wait until the speaker is finished before writing the final quotation mark. Quotation marks should never be placed back to back. Examples:

No: Mary said, "I love talking." "If I could, I would talk all night and all day." "Everyone I know just loves the sound of my voice."

Yes: Mary said, "I love talking. If I could, I would talk all night and all day. Everyone I know just loves the sound of my voice."

Notice that the first quotation mark is placed right before Mary starts talking. The final quotation mark doesn't appear until after she is finished.

DIRECTIONS

Read the following sentences. Place quotation marks where they are needed. Any punctuation already included is correct.

That new employee I hired is working out so well, said Tara, owner of the Good Rate Motel. He cleans the rooms faster than anyone I've ever seen. He was a real find.

I really have to hand it to you, Ira agreed. You made a good choice. I was worried when I first saw Elmer. You have to admit that a guy with 36 thumbs and no fingers looks a little weird. But since he can scrub with six sponges at a time, I can't complain.

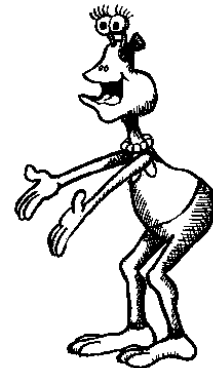
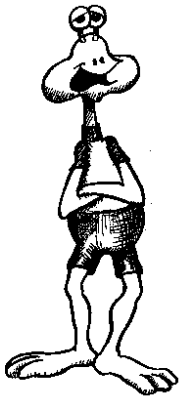
Tara nodded. Yes, it's amazing what he can do with those 36 thumbs. I wonder how many toes he has?

BONUS

Write a description of Elmer's job interview at the Good Rate Motel. Be sure to include the conversation that took place. If you like, add a drawing of Elmer.

Angry Felderspasm

Here are two little-known creatures called felderspasms. What are they arguing about? Name the two felderspasms and write out their conversation below, using quotation marks around the words they say.



Don't use quotation marks
with an indirect quotation.



Everyone hears rumors at school. For example, you might have heard from Suzanne that John said that Linda said that Tommy said that Marcia was conceited.

What you heard was probably an example of *paraphrasing*. Paraphrasing is telling what someone said, but without using the person's exact words. Tommy might actually have used the words, "I think Marcia is stuck up." But by the time Suzanne heard the story, his original words had disappeared.

What does all this have to do with quotation marks? Nothing — because you don't use quotation marks when you are paraphrasing! You don't use them because you aren't using a person's original words. A paraphrased quotation is also called an *indirect quotation*.

One good clue that a story is being paraphrased is the word *that*. Examples:

Direct quotation: Tommy said, "Marcia is conceited." (Quotation marks needed.)

Indirect quotation: Tommy told us that he thinks Marcia is conceited. (Quotation marks are not needed.)

DIRECTIONS

Using your own paper, rewrite the two indirect quotations below so that they are direct quotations. Be sure to add quotation marks as needed. Example:

Indirect: *I once told my friend Lisa that she was too shy. She told me that she didn't care what I thought, but the whole time she was talking, she was looking straight at my feet.*

Direct: "Lisa, you are too shy," I said.

"I don't care what you think," she replied as she stared at my feet.

1. Dallas wanted to spend the night in the haunted house, but his friend Natalie told him that the last people to stay there disappeared and never came back outside. Dallas told Natalie he didn't believe the story, but he admitted he felt a little nervous.
2. The teacher called Linda to her office and told her that she had a failing grade on her report card. Linda argued that she had turned in all of her homework and that the teacher wasn't fair. She said that Mrs. Dutton just didn't like her. Mrs. Dutton pointed out that, even though Linda had turned in all of her homework, she had received an *F* on every single homework assignment.

BONUS

Choose one of your rewritten conversations (above) and continue it, punctuating correctly.

Change paragraphs when you change speakers.



In real life, it is pretty easy to know who is talking. You just look at the person who has words coming out of his or her mouth.

In writing, it is a bit more difficult to keep things straight. That's why paragraphs are used. When writing dialogue, you should start a new paragraph every time speakers change.

Examples:

"I can't believe Mrs. Ghoul is a teacher," Josh said. "She certainly doesn't look like a teacher. In fact, she doesn't even look like a person."

Elaine replied, "I know. I wonder when they started hiring teachers with four legs and scales. I just don't know how to act around her."

"No one does. How are you supposed to act around a teacher with fangs a foot long?"

"Well, for one thing, I wouldn't make her mad!"

Notice that the speaker's exact words are placed inside the quotation marks. Also, by indenting each time a new speaker begins, the writer does not have to keep using phrases such as *he said* or *she said*. Because there is a new paragraph, the reader knows there is a new speaker.

DIRECTIONS

Rewrite the following conversation between English teacher Mrs. Levine and her star student, Bill. Be sure to start a new paragraph each time there is a change in speakers. Add quotation marks as needed.

Mrs. Levine said, Always use quotation marks whenever you're writing conversation. A quotation mark is an important piece of punctuation, Bill said, because it encloses a person's exact words. That's true, Mrs. Levine agreed. Have you ever forgotten to use quotation marks? Bill asked. Oh, no, said Mrs. Levine. Quotation marks are so important that I would never forget to use them. I forgot, said Bill, that you're a teacher. That means you're perfect. I don't think I would call myself perfect, Mrs. Levine replied thoughtfully. No? Then what would you call yourself? I prefer being called amazing, Mrs. Levine said, smiling. Oh, and you can quote me on that.

Use a comma to separate
he said/she said expressions
 from the quotation.

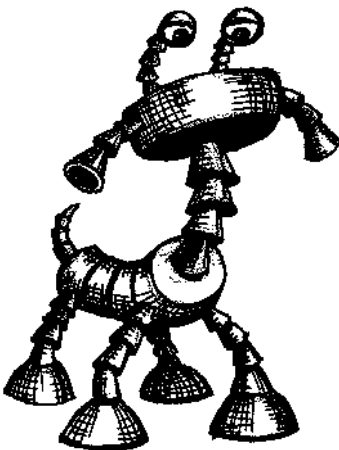
Expressions such as *he said* or *she said* are often used as signals to the reader that a direct quotation is about to appear. They are usually separated from the quotation with a comma. Example:

"I'm not afraid of monsters," said Tiffany, "but I think you are."
 "I'm not afraid," said Hannah. "I'm just looking under my bed for
 giant dust bunnies."

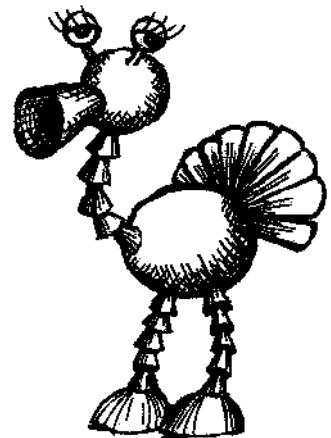


The expression *said Tiffany* is plopped in the middle of the first sentence. Commas are used to separate *said Tiffany* from the quotation itself.

In the second sentence, however, the expression *said Hannah* comes between two complete sentences. Therefore, a period instead of a comma is used after *said Hannah*.



I love you said John You do
 asked Marsha Yes I do answered
 John I love you more than pepper-
 oni pizza I wish you didn't said
 Marsha because I love Henry



DIRECTIONS

Using your own paper, rewrite the conversation above, punctuating and paragraphing it correctly.



Talking Back to Ads

Ads are everywhere. Faces “speak” to us from billboards, posters, flyers and magazine and newspaper ads. Here’s your chance to answer back.

DIRECTIONS

Cut out five examples of advertisements. Make sure each ad has a person “saying” something to readers through a headline. Tape or staple each ad to the top of a piece of paper. Then add dialogue between you (or someone else) and the person in the ad.

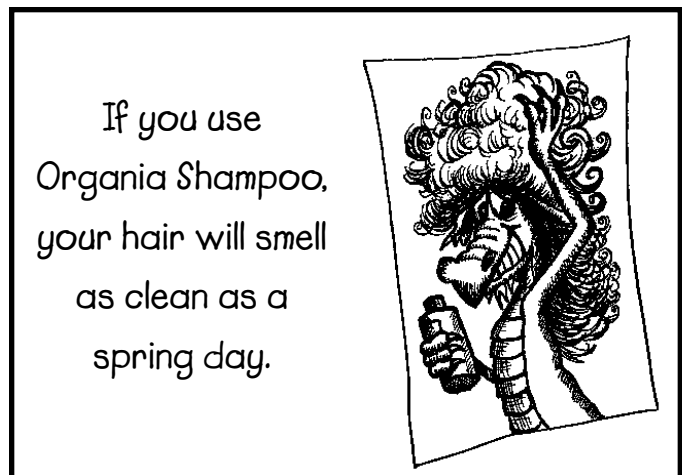
For the ad at right, for example, you might write the following dialogue:

“If you use Organia shampoo, your hair will smell as clean as a spring day,” promised Mildred.

Cassie responded, “I know someone who used your shampoo, but he smelled more like a summer soccer game.”

“You must be mistaken. My hair smells wonderful,” said Mildred, leaning close. “Here. Take a whiff. You’ll see.”

“I’m not going to sniff your hair!” cried Cassie. “And I’m never going to buy Organia shampoo, either!”



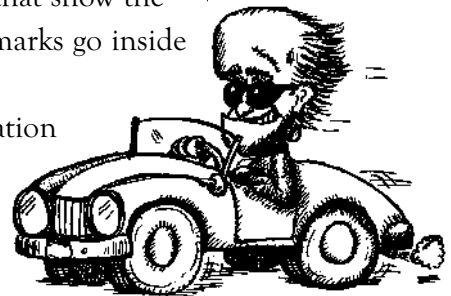
Be sure to use a comma to separate expressions like *he said* and *she said* from the quotation itself.

Periods always go inside the quotation marks.

With a vehicle, it is the brakes that makes the car slow down or stop. With writing, it is periods, question marks, and exclamation points that show the reader when to slow down or stop. But do these punctuation marks go inside or outside the quotation marks?

It depends. A period is easy. It always goes inside the quotation marks. Example:

Ashley said, "I'm tired." (Notice that the period is inside the quotation marks.)



However, a question mark or exclamation point goes *inside* the quotation marks if it belongs with the quotation itself. It goes *outside* the quotation marks if it applies to the sentence as a whole. Examples:

Christopher asked, "Are we going to have a test?" (Christopher's words are a question, so the question mark goes inside the quotation marks.)

Did you say, "The test will be Friday"? (The entire sentence is a question, so the question mark goes outside of the quotation marks.)

Rebecca is the one who screamed, "Help!" (What Rebecca is screaming is an exclamation, so the exclamation point goes inside the quotation mark.)

I simply can't believe you said, "Maybe"! (The whole sentence, not the quotation, is an exclamation. Therefore, the exclamation point goes outside the quotation marks.)

DIRECTIONS

Rewrite the following story, punctuating correctly. Be sure to paragraph correctly as well.

Driver's education class was an experience I will never forget. My best friend Tess and I decided to take driver's education together. I could have taken the class without Tess, but they do say that two heads are better than one. Of course, Tess has that extra head, but hey, who's counting? Tess told me, Alfred, having ten eyes and two heads will be an advantage when I'm driving. After all, I'll be able to see everything that's coming and going. Someone walked in and wrote his name on the board. He said, Hello. My name is Crash Dummy, and I will be your instructor for the next few weeks. You can call me Crash. I turned to Tess and said Did he just say, My name is Crash Dummy? Why couldn't our teacher have been named Safety Sam or Careful Carrie? Someone in the back of the class yelled Oh no! He was worried, too. Soon Crash asked the class, Who would like to volunteer to drive first? Pick me! Pick me! I yelled to the instructor. Crash said, Everyone come outside and wait on the sidewalk while I go and get the car. You're going to love the car you get to drive. I did. It was a lovely black hearse. Wonderful I cried. Wonderful.



Quotation marks take the place of cartoon bubbles.

Cartoonists do not use quotation marks when they write dialogue. Instead, they write all conversation in “bubbles” or “balloons” over each character’s head. Because the balloons point to the speakers, expressions like *he said* and *she said* are not necessary.

In most situations, however, writers need to identify who is talking with expressions like *he said* and *she said*.

DIRECTIONS

Choose two cartoon strips from the newspaper. Paste or tape the comic strips to a piece of notebook paper, one on the front and one on the back. Be sure to attach the cartoons near the top edge of your paper so you will have plenty of room underneath for writing.

Below the cartoon, rewrite the conversations from the cartoon in paragraph form. Capture what is happening in the cartoon, without any drawings. Remember these general rules:

- Put a speaker’s exact words in quotation marks.
- Use commas to set off expressions like *he said*/*she said*.
- Change paragraphs whenever you change speakers.

Here’s an example:



“Doc, do you think I’ll be able to play football after this cast is off my leg?” asked the young patient.

“Certainly,” answered the doctor enthusiastically.

“Thanks!” said the patient. “I couldn’t play before!”

BONUS

Draw a cartoon strip of your own. Then rewrite the conversation from the cartoon in paragraph form.

If a quotation is more than one paragraph long, use a quotation mark at the beginning of each paragraph.



Generally, when you write a quotation, you put quotation marks at the beginning of the speaker's words and quotation marks at the end of the words. But what if a person talks for several paragraphs? Then the quotation is punctuated differently.

If a quotation is more than one paragraph long, use quotation marks at the beginning of each paragraph, to let the reader know that the person is still speaking. Do not, however, use ending quotation marks until the last paragraph. Example:

Dear Mrs. Jones,

I simply can't come to school today. It's not that I don't want to come and take your wonderful test. Really I do, but the doctor said to me, "Rufus, you cannot go to school today. You will simply have to take the test another time. Your health is more important than studying couplets and rhyme. What good is knowing what personification means if you aren't alive to personify anything?"

"Why, I remember when I was a boy just your age and the teacher had a huge exam. I studied all night for the big test and then overslept the next day because I was so tired.

"No sir, young man. You need to stay in and get plenty of rest, and I'm sure your wonderful teacher will understand. You just tell her I insisted."

So you see, Mrs. Jones, I had to stay home and skip your test. I am sending this note with my sister. I am sure you will understand.

*Sincerely,
Rufus*

DIRECTIONS

Write a letter about a monster that rescues someone from a difficult situation. Include a quotation that is at least two paragraphs long.



Name _____

“Dialogue” is another name for a conversation between two or more people.

It is important to know how to use quotation marks when writing dialogue, but it is also important for the conversation you write not to sound boring. Sometimes using a verb other than *said* can help, although you don’t want to overdo it. For example, you might write *she yelled* or *he explained*.

DIRECTIONS

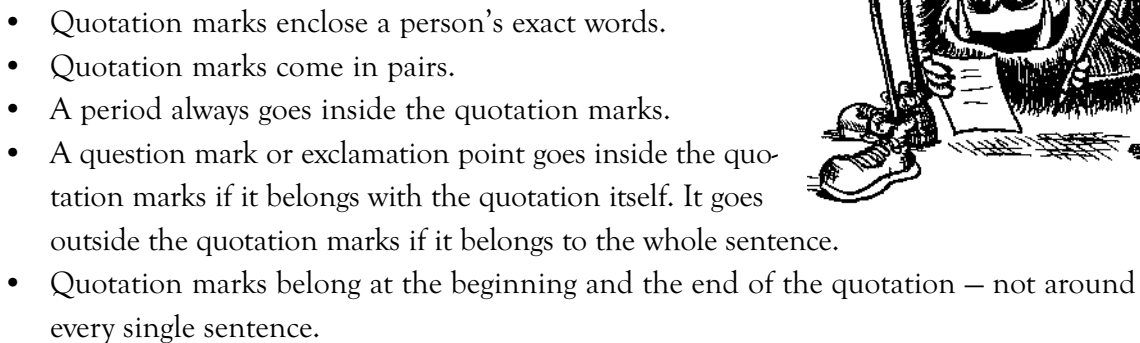
Part One: With others in your group, brainstorm a list of at least 15 verbs that a person might use instead of *said*. Three examples are included for you in the box below. Complete the box, using a thesaurus or a dictionary for help.

replied	_____	_____	_____
sighed	_____	_____	_____
muttered	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Part Two: On each line below, write an appropriate verb. Although *said* is fine most of the time, use different verbs here, just for practice. You may choose from the list of verbs you came up with, above, or you may use different verbs. Example:

“Oh dear, I chipped a claw again,” Melamorpha sighed.

1. “There’s a gelgomoot in my closet!” _____ Arnie Minkfuzz.
2. “Could you bring me some sardine oatmeal for breakfast?” the liffensneeter _____.
3. “I can make all your wishes come true,” Fenwick the slimy frog prince _____.
4. “I couldn’t believe it,” _____ chief lifeguard Louanna Smatana, “when the Lake Malarky ghost started howling during the fireworks.”
5. Lothar the Liver Lover _____, “Bring me my midnight snack!”
6. “Oh no, I left the salamander soufflé on the table,” Gazzilla _____, “and now it’s mysteriously disappeared.”
7. “Don’t forget to floss and sharpen your fangs before you go to bed,” _____ Momma Snagglesnoot.
8. “Get that snortworter out of my clean cave!” Ock’s mother _____.



“” “” “” “” “” “” “” “” “” “” “” “” “” “” “” “” “” “” “”

I've been in sticky situations before, but this has to be the worst, complained the firefly, hoping someone would hear him. Of course you can't move, a voice replied. Who's there? the firefly asked as he tried once again to move his captured wings. You can call me Ms. Spider, his host replied, but she made no offer to free the firefly. Did you just say Call me Ms. Spider? the firefly asked. There was no answer. Surely I misunderstood her, he thought. If she's Ms. Spider, then that makes me Mr. Snack. Before he had time to put his fear into words, Ms. Spider asked, I've seen you around before. Aren't you that firefly who hangs around with that ladybug named Kate? Yes, I am, the firefly said with a smile, but I haven't seen her in several days. Kate is such a sweet girl. Ms. Spider replied with a secret little smile, Yes, she is. Oh drat! Ms. Spider yelled before the firefly could respond. My thread is tangled, and it's too dark for me to see how to get it undone. Allow me, said the firefly, and his body lit up like a flashlight. Why, that's wonderful! exclaimed Ms. Spider as she quickly untied the knotted thread. Mr. Firefly, I must say I am most impressed with your kindness, and since you were kind enough to help me, I'm going to let you go. She undid his wings and sent him on his way, but he heard her yell into the darkness, I must warn you, though, that if you ever come and visit me again, I'll simply insist that you stay for dinner!

Conversation with a Vampire

Review Exercise



Imagine talking to a vampire without worrying that you are about to be his late-night snack. What questions would you ask? What would you like to know about a vampire's life?

In the space below write a conversation between a famous person and a vampire. Remember: When writing conversation, begin a new paragraph each time you change speakers. Also, be sure and enclose a speaker's exact words in quotation marks. Example:

"What kind of student were you in school?" asked television reporter Anne Selkowitz.

"I was very good at English, especially punctuation," said the vampire. He laughed. "Just a little vampire humor!"

"I see," said Selkowitz seriously. "Let me change the subject. Don't you ever crave something normal to drink, like a glass of milk?"

The vampire replied, "Only if my victim has just been eating chocolate."

Use the back of this sheet if you need more space. Be sure and use correct quotation marks, capitalization, and ending punctuation. (Just a little vampire humor!)

Punctuating the Swampville Gazette



The *Swampville Gazette* has a little problem. All the editors and proofreaders have come down with a bad case of the flu, and the rest of the employees don't know what to do. They know that the article below has some punctuation errors, but they don't know how to fix them.

That's where you come in. Help save the paper's reputation by adding quotation marks wherever they are needed. (No, you won't be getting paid. You are doing this strictly out of the goodness of your heart and the great desire to save the *Swampville Gazette* from public humiliation.)

Reminders

- Use quotation marks to enclose a speaker's exact words.
- Change paragraphs each time you change speakers.
- Do not put quotation marks around indirect quotations.

GHOST SEEN IN WOMAN'S HOUSE

Isabelle Gootsworth told authorities yesterday that she saw a ghost in her home Saturday night. When questioned by authorities she replied, I did see a ghost. It's not my fault that you can't see it too.

Neighbors say that Gootsworth is known for her unusual stories. Just last year she claimed to see the ghost of Elvis near her stereo.

He was there, I tell you," she said. He was singing and dancing. Then my son walked in and scared him. I kept hoping that he would come back and finish singing about his blue suede shoes, but I waited up all night, and he never did come back.

Next time I'm definitely buying donuts. I just know he'd have come back if I had some donuts around.

Gootsworth told police that it was the ghost of Captain Crunch who visited her Saturday. The officer on duty asked, How did you know it was the ghost of Captain Crunch?

Mrs. Gootsworth replied that she could tell it was the Captain because every time he moved she could hear a distinctive crunch-crunch sound.

Officers had no comment, but they are suggesting that people stay out of the vicinity of Maple Avenue and Elm Drive.

We aren't taking this lightly, said Officer Milton Powell. We don't want anyone to get in the way of this ghost just in case he turns out to be a cereal killer.



Let's review more quotation rules.

- A direct quotation uses a speaker's exact words. The words are placed inside quotation marks.
- An indirect quotation tells what a speaker says but does not use the speaker's exact words. Indirect quotations do not use quotation marks.

DIRECTIONS

Number from 1-12 on your own paper. Then read the following sentences. If the sentence is punctuated correctly, place a "C" (for correct) beside that number on your own paper. If quotation marks are missing or have been used incorrectly, rewrite the sentence correctly.

Example:

"David said, I just love my English class."

David said, "I just love my English class."

1. The headless horseman asked, "Has anyone seen my head? It's hard for me to look."
2. "Touch my book of spells, and I'll turn you into a frog, the witch cackled.
3. Mary thinks that the Loch Ness monster is real.
4. "Have you ever seen a ghost?" he asked.
5. "I think," she replied, "there's no such thing as monsters." "I'm just looking under my bed for giant dust bunnies."
6. My mother says that I shouldn't watch so many scary movies on television.
7. "No one ever has a camera" when they run into Big Foot, Brett said.
8. "I once thought my teacher was an alien," Jack said.
9. "Janice asked," Have you ever told ghost stories at a slumber party?
10. The girl said, "If you just didn't have those green ear lobes, I'd probably go out with you."
11. He asked, "How old are you in dog years?"
12. Grandma asked, Do you want a sweater or a book for your birthday?"

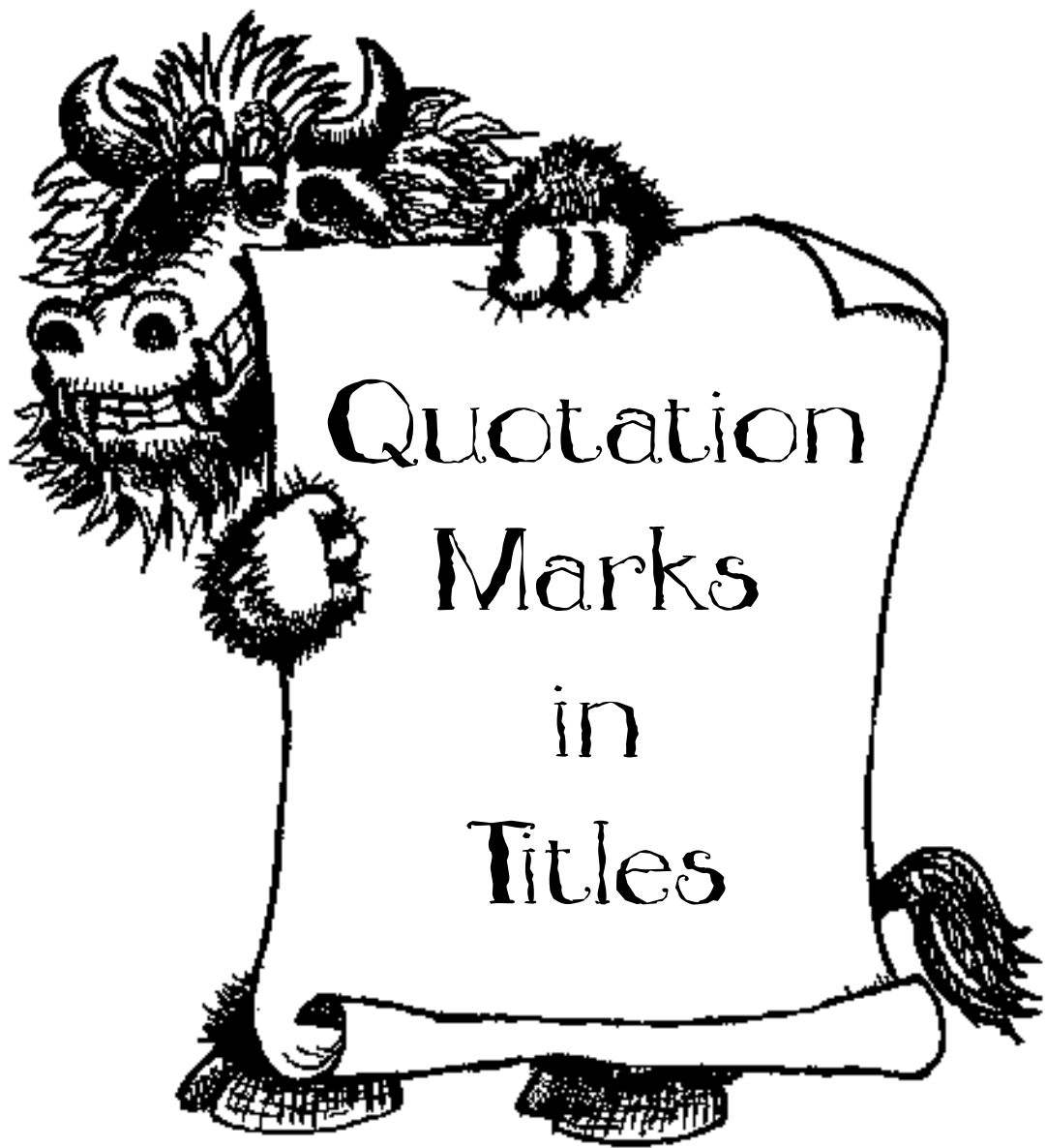
Time for a test!

DIRECTIONS

Rewrite the following conversation, paragraphing and punctuating correctly. (Capitalization that is included is correct.)

Do you understand direct and indirect quotations asked Mrs. Glickmeister I certainly do said Glorm So do I said Frebble We all do exclaimed all the students together Mrs. Glickmeister smiled and said she was glad they were all so smart I think I will reward you she continued by letting you read a story A story shouted the students with great excitement What story is it The story answered Mrs. Glickmeister is one you should all enjoy It is called How Prepositional Phrases Made Me a Success in Life It sounds terrific said the students. Did you say It sounds terrific asked Mrs. Glickmeister Yes answered the students You certainly are a wonderful teacher, Mrs. Glickmeister





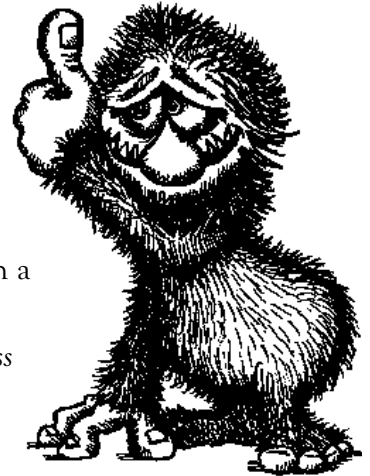
Underlining and Italics vs. Quotation Marks

Writing titles can be tricky. Some titles have quotation marks around them. Some titles are underlined (or italicized, if you are using a computer). How do you know when to underline and when to use quotation marks?

Here is a general rule of thumb: If the title is the name of something that might be contained within a larger work, it probably needs quotation marks. If it is the title of the larger work itself, it probably needs to be underlined or written in italics. Examples:

- “The End of the World” is a chapter in the book *Attack of the Mutant Meteors*.
- Did you read the article called “In Search of the Yeti”? It appeared in the June issue of *American Ghoul*.
- Bill wrote a poem. It was called, “Peas, Please.” It was later included in a book called *Vegetable Magic*.
- Marietta loves the song “Nessie and Me.” It’s from the movie *Loch Ness Love*.
- Judy thinks she remembers an episode called “Oopsie” from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

What’s the
rule of thumb
when writing titles?



Here’s a summary:

Quotation Marks

Song
Poem
Short story
Episode of a television program
Chapter of a book
Article in a magazine

Underlining (or italics)

Books
Plays
Magazines
Television programs
Movies
Newspapers

DIRECTIONS

Rewrite the following paragraph, using quotation marks and underlining (or italicizing) correctly.

After I finish watching reruns of *The Brady Bunch*, I’m going to start learning the words to the song *I Am a Dentist* for our school’s production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. There was a story yesterday about our show in the *Pleasantville Gazette*. This heading read *Kids Build Man-Eating Plant for Local Show*. Next week the magazine *Local Happenings* is also going to publish a piece about our musical.



Name _____

Never use both quotation marks
and underlining for a title . . .

. . . or both quotation marks
and italics



If your teacher assigned a report on “The Rise and Fall of the Impressionist Movement During the PostModern War Era of the Central Portions of the Noncommunist European Countries,” you would probably faint. Then you would pick yourself up and say, “Well, at least I know how to punctuate the title!”

(Or else you would ask her if you could write your report about dogs instead.)

When punctuating titles, remember that you should never use *both* underlining and quotation marks (or both italics and quotation marks). You should use one or the other.

Titles that probably need quotation marks are titles of songs, poems, short stories, episodes of a television program, a chapter in a book or an article in a magazine — in other words, works that might be included *within* longer works. The title of the longer work itself should be underlined or italicized.

DIRECTIONS

Rewrite the following sentences. Add quotation marks if they are needed. If a sentence is correct, place the letter “C” for correct on the line provided.

- _____ 1. Wouldn't it be interesting of our food could talk? In the short story Attack of the Squashing Squash, a giant zucchini yells at anyone who tries to fry him.
- _____ 2. I once wrote a poem called Ode to a Tomato. It was about how sad I get whenever a tomato is sliced and diced.
- _____ 3. Tomatoes have a difficult life. They probably don't want to talk. They would probably rather write books with names like Evil People Who Kill Vegetables.
- _____ 4. Whenever I get sad I like to sing “Put on a Happy Face” to try and cheer myself up.
- _____ 5. My mother used to draw smiley faces on my sandwiches with mustard to try to get me to eat. She got the idea from an article called How to Make Your Kids Eat.
- _____ 6. It was in a magazine called Raising Healthy Kids.
- _____ 7. I thought the article should be called *Mother Makes a Mess*, but I never said that, of course.
- _____ 8. Really, I am glad that our food can't say a thing. It would be just way too hard to swallow my food if it were singing Baby, I Love You as it went down.

Quotation Marks Inside Quotation Marks

You know that a person's exact words are written inside quotation marks. But what if a person's exact words include a quotation by someone else? Then you need *two* sets of quotation marks — one set around the person's words and one set around the quotation by someone else. The second set of quotation marks (for the quotation *within* a quotation) should always be *single* quotation marks. Example:

Jackson said, "I heard Mom say, 'Be sure to be home by 10:00.'"

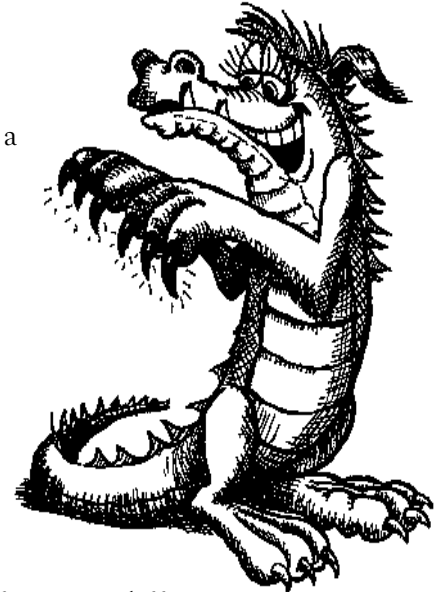
Single quotation marks are also needed when a title is used within a quotation. Example:

"The poem 'My Manicure' is so inspiring," Sandy said. "It made me want to go straight to my manicurist and have my nails redone."

DIRECTIONS

Read the following sentences. Place single quotation marks wherever they are needed.

1. "Have you ever read the short story Janie's Two Personalities, by Janie Sarah Smith? It's a very interesting book because it's written from two different perspectives," Brandy said.
2. Stephanie argued, "There is no way the song Nerdy Nicki can make it to the number one spot!"
3. "In this week's issue of my magazine, there's an article called How to Get Out of Doing Homework. It looks like it will be very informative," said Brittany.
4. "I just love the poem My Cockroach, My Roommate, by Marie Phillips," Derek said. "It really brings tears to my eyes."
5. "I wrote a song for the songwriting contest," Rhonda told her teacher. "I'm calling it Homework Stinks. Do you think it has a chance to win?"
6. Irene said, "I called the radio station and asked them to play the song Lost and Found, but the disc jockey said he couldn't find it."





Practice Using Quotation Marks

Directions

Add commas and underlining wherever needed to the story below.

My First Day to Drive

My first day driving alone was quite an experience. My parents made me read the book *Driving With Caution* and an article called *Don't Be Reckless* before they would hand over the car keys. After I passed a quiz on both the book and the article, I was allowed to climb into the driver's seat.

The minute I got away from the house, I cranked up the stereo. My favorite song, *Flying Free*, was playing on the radio. I looked over in the passenger's seat at my stack of schoolbooks. I was supposed to be on my way to Jamie's house to study for a quiz on the short story called *Peaceful Night*. I was not looking forward to it, but getting to drive made the trip worth it.

My parents had given me strict instructions that nothing was to happen to their trusty old blue sedan. I had promised they could make me sit and watch the entire opera of *Madame Butterfly* if I so much as put even a smudge of dirt on the car.

When I arrived at Jamie's house, her mother was watching her favorite television program, *Living in the Country*, and her father was reading a magazine. I could see the article was titled *I'm Always Right*. I decided then and there to steer clear of Jamie's father and went looking for Jamie instead.

It didn't take us long to finish the story and then do a chapter in our science books called *Magnetism: Get Stuck on It*. We were getting pretty sick of studying, so Jamie suggested we go for a drive. I naturally agreed because, after all, I had the keys.

We told her parents goodbye, and it wasn't long before we were on the road and driving towards the paint ball field. My friends and I love to shoot paint ball guns in our spare time, but I knew my parents would not approve of my being at the field today. I figured what they didn't know wouldn't hurt me.

I sat in the car while my second favorite song, *One Fine Day*, finished playing. Then I heard a loud splattering noise. I jumped out of the car and could not believe my eyes. There on the side of my parents' sedan was a huge glob of white paint.

Jamie and I quickly jumped into the car and raced for the car wash. I scrubbed and scrubbed, but the stubborn paint would not budge. I drove Jamie home in total silence and then went home. When I pulled into the driveway, my parents stood there waiting. I thought my father looked like the wolf from the story *The Three Little Pigs*. I felt sure any minute he would huff and puff and blow something down.

"Wow!" I shouted as I got out of the car, trying to look surprised, as if noticing the white glob of goop for the very first time.

My father looked at me. He opened his mouth and then closed his mouth but no words came out. Then my mother looked at me. She gave me the strangest little smile as she managed to say, "That must have been one huge bird, Theodore."

I handed over the car keys and then spent the next three weeks with my nose buried in a book called *How To Speak Italian*. After all, I don't want to be too confused when we go to the opera.

Quotation Marks with Titles

Quiz Time

PART ONE

DIRECTIONS

Read the following sentences. If a sentence is correct, place a "C" for correct on the line provided. If a sentence is not correct, add quotation marks wherever they are needed.



- _____ 1. "Wash Your Ears" is an exciting article about ear hygiene.
- _____ 2. Be sure and read the poem "I Love My Nose" by James Proboscus.
- _____ 3. I love the song My Lips Are Stuck, by the Front Alley Guys.
- _____ 4. My favorite episode of Children's World is Fingers and Toes, which teaches children how to count.
- _____ 5. The chapter Keeping Your Tongue Clean is one of the most interesting in the book on dental care.

PART TWO

DIRECTIONS

On the lines provided, write three sentences of your own that mention titles. (The titles can be real or you can use your imagination!) Include the title of a book, the title of a magazine article and the title of a television show in the sentences.

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____



Answer Keys

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 9

QUOTATION MARKS ARE LIKE SHOES.

1. "I just love going to the mall and shopping for new shoes," Molly the snorpweedle said.
2. "Oh, me too," Gilda the bumblewort replied.
3. "The only problem is finding the shoes I like in my size," said Molly.
4. "I know what you mean," Gilda said sympathetically. "With my webbed feet, I can never find any sandals that fit."
5. "I don't know why you even bother to wear shoes," Molly said, glancing at her friend's duck-like feet.
6. "Even bumbleworts who live in the water like to look stylish when attending swamp parties," said Gilda.
7. "Well, of course. I don't know what I was thinking," Molly said to her friend. "I've got an idea. Let's buy the same shoes, and then we can look like twins."
8. Gilda replied, "That's a good idea, but can we split a second pair so we can each have a third shoe? I just hate for the foot in my ear not to match my other two."

BONUS ANSWER:

Answers may vary. Here is one example:

"You know, you can never have too many pairs of shoes," said Molly. "I cannot believe I bought six new pairs, but it was such a good sale."

"I'm thinking I should go back and get those cute chartreuse strappy sandals," Gilda replied. "They match the embroidered pond leaves on my new outfit."

"But they only had one pair left," Molly reminded her. "Don't you want a matching shoe for the foot in your ear?"

"Well, they did have them in hot pink in a smaller size, and my third foot is not as big as my other two," said Gilda. "I know they wouldn't match, but the contrast just might work. By the way, is your third foot smaller than your other two?"

"No," said Molly, "it's bigger. I stand on it all day at work. The Baked Beetle gets pretty busy during the tourist season, especially when those obnoxious waddleborts come to town."

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 10

QUOTATION MARKS ARE LIKE CARTOON BUBBLES.

Answers will vary, but here are some possibilities:

1. The mummy grumbled, "Next time, use softer tissue."
2. The alien replied, "I've got some spray that would eliminate this pollution in seconds."
3. The ghost replied, "You all look just boo-tiful."
4. The monster whispered, "I've got some yummy snickerflickers for you under here."
5. "Chicken is so popular with customers these days," said the frog.

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 11

DON'T USE MORE QUOTATION MARKS THAN YOU REALLY NEED.

"That new employee I hired is working out so well," said Tara, owner of the Good Rate Motel. "He cleans the rooms faster than anyone I've ever seen. He was a real find."

"I really have to hand it to you," Ira agreed. "You made a good choice. I was worried when I first saw Elmer. You have to admit that a guy with 36 thumbs and no fingers looks a little

weird. But since he can scrub with six sponges at a time, I can't complain."

Tara nodded. "Yes, it's amazing what he can do with those 36 thumbs. I wonder how many toes he has?"

BONUS

Answers will vary. Here is one example:

Elmer walked into the Tate's Good Rate Motel one morning with his hands behind his back. "Good morning!" he yelled. "Need any help around here?"

Ira looked at Elmer. "Well," he said, "this is a pretty small operation, but Tara and I are getting on in age and we could use someone to help us. Do you have any experience?"

"During my last job I made donut holes. I could poke holes in three dozen donuts at a time. Another time I delivered bagels, one on each thumb. I also painted the bus station in Cleveland in under two hours."

"How do you do all that?" Ira asked.

Elmer brought his hands around the front of him to show his 36 thumbs, 18 on each hand. "With these," he said. "I've also smoothed concrete, pasted billboards, been a high rise window washer and worked at a winery smashing grapes."

"Did you smash the grapes standing on your hands?" asked Ira.

Elmer looked down. "Not exactly, but that's another story."

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 12

ANGRY FELDERSPASMS

Answers will vary. Here is one example:

"We just have to become better known. Nobody's ever heard of a felderspasm. Those slothwongers get all the attention," said Mirky.

"It's all your fault," Tortor replied. "We used to get invited to all the cool parties until you embarrassed the whole clan by spilling drinks and hogging the fudge clam dip."

Mirky replied, "Hey, I'm not the only one. The last time we went out with some slothwongers, your snout was running, and you sneezed and coughed all night. It was revolting."

"I couldn't help it," Tortor said. "One slothwonger had so much perfume on that my allergies kicked in."

"Well, this Friday I'm going to the Dingy Disco to see the slothwongers' new band, Stomping Petunias, and you are not coming," argued Mirky.

"No way I'm staying home," Tortor remarked. "Hey, maybe I should start my own accordion band. That would show those slothwongers who's cool!"

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 13

DON'T USE QUOTATIONS WITH AN INDIRECT QUOTATION.

Answers will vary. Here are some possibilities.

"Natalie, I'm going to do something crazy! I'm going to spend the night in the haunted house," Dallas said.

"Are you crazy?" Natalie shouted. "The last people to spend the night there disappeared forever!"

"Hogwash! I don't believe those silly rumors for one second," Dallas bragged, "but they do make me feel a little nervous," he admitted.

"Linda, I thought I should prepare you for the failing grade you are receiving for this class," Mrs. Dutton warned.

"What? That just can't be. I turned in every single assignment!" Linda yelled. "This is so unfair. You just don't like me."

"The fact of the matter is, Linda, you earned the grade you are receiving. You did indeed turn in every single assignment, but you also received an *F* on absolutely everything you turned in," Mrs. Dutton explained.

BONUS

"Oh, Dallas, you're so weird. If it makes you nervous, why would you go? Who are you trying to impress?" Natalie asked smugly.

"Definitely not you," said Dallas. "Whenever a guy does something courageous, girls always assume that he is just showing off for them."

"Actually, I think guys waste more time impressing their guy friends than girls," explained Natalie. "Admit it. You are probably only doing this because one of your *macho* friends dared you to do it."

"OK. Maybe Fred did triple-dog-dare me to spend the night there," Dallas confessed, "but you wouldn't understand. The number one rule of being a guy is to never, ever turn down a dare."

"Even if it means that something bad could happen, and that you could actually disappear forever from the face of the earth?" asked Natalie.

"Even if . . ." said Dallas.

"If you really have to do this, you can always borrow my teddy bear to keep you company. And I wouldn't tell anyone." Natalie promised.

"Really? You would actually let me borrow Mr. Sniffles? That would make me feel much better," Dallas said. "But remember, you can't tell a soul."

"Oh, I promise," Natalie said, winking.

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 14

CHANGE PARAGRAPHS WHEN YOU CHANGE SPEAKERS.

Mrs. Levine said, "Always use quotation marks whenever you're writing conversation."

"A quotation mark is an important piece of punctuation," Bill said, "because it encloses a person's exact words."

"That's true," Mrs. Levine agreed.

"Have you ever forgotten to use quotation marks?" Bill asked.

"Oh no," said Mrs. Levine. "Quotation marks are so important that I would never forget to use them."

"I forgot," said Bill, "that you're a teacher. That means you're perfect."

"I don't think I would call myself perfect," Mrs. Levine replied thoughtfully.

"No? Then what would you call yourself?"

"I prefer being called amazing," Mrs. Levine said, smiling. "Oh, and you can quote me on that."

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 15

USE A COMMA TO SEPARATE HE SAID/SHE SAID EXPRESSIONS FROM THE QUOTATION.

"I love you," said John.

"You do?" asked Marsha.

"Yes I do," answered John. "I love you more than pepperoni pizza."
"I wish you didn't," said Marsha, "because I love Henry."

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 16

TALKING BACK TO ADS

Answers will vary. Here are some examples.

"Drink Dr Pepper. This is the taste to keep you cool."

Neil wondered, "What if I have never been very cool?"

"Sorry, I don't think anything – not even Dr Pepper – would make you cool," said Karlie.

"I know what would make me much cooler," said Neil, winking, "a date with you!"

The Gap has the scoop on something cool.

Kendra responded, "I just have the scoop on my cat's litter box."

"I don't want to hear any complaining," said Kendra's mom. "I remembering you saying, 'If you let me have a cat, I'll clean her litter box everyday and never ever complain.' Do you remember that?"

"Why do you have to remember *everything*?" whined Kendra. "Not only that, you always use it against me."

Star Wars will help to defeat the dark side.

"I would be happy if someone would just invent a cure for acne," said Paula.

"Paula, you can be so self-centered," exclaimed Sunshine, Paula's best friend.

"I don't want the cure for acne just for myself," explained Paula. "Just think how good looking Wayne would be if he could solve his acne problem."

"You're right, the world would be a better place if Wayne had clear skin," said Sunshine.

Send Hallmark, when you care enough to send the very best.

Ryan asked, "What do you send when you want to send the very worst?"

"When I want to send the very worst," said Shawn, "I always send an old liverwurst and Limburger cheese sandwich."

"Yuck! Remind me never to get on your bad side," Ryan said.

Reebok has performance you can feel.

"I'd settle for feeling my big toe in these shoes," said JoAnn.

"You can't feel your big toe because those shoes are too small," explained Wilma. "You've had those shoes since sixth grade."

"These are my favorite shoes ever!" exclaimed JoAnn. "I will never give them up!"

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 17

PERIODS ALWAYS GO INSIDE QUOTATION MARKS.

Driver's education class was an experience I will never forget. My best friend Tess and I decided to take driver's education together. I could have taken the class without Tess, but they do say that two heads are better than one. Of course, Tess has that extra head, but hey, who's counting?

Tess told me, "Alfred, having ten eyes and two heads will be an advantage when I'm driving. After all, I'll be able to see everything that's coming and going."

Someone walked in and wrote his name on the board. He said, "Hello. My name is Crash Dummy, and I will be your instructor for the next few weeks. You can call me Crash."

I turned to Tess and said, “Did he just say, ‘My name is Crash Dummy’? Why couldn’t our teacher have been named Safety Sam or Careful Carrie?”

Someone in the back of the class yelled, “Oh no!” He was worried, too.

Soon Crash asked the class, “Who would like to volunteer to drive first?”

“Pick me! Pick me!” I yelled to the instructor.

Crash said, “Everyone come outside and wait on the sidewalk while I go and get the car. You’re going to love the car you get to drive.”

I did. It was a lovely black hearse. “Wonderful!” I cried. “Wonderful.”

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 18

QUOTATION MARKS TAKE THE PLACE OF CARTOON BUBBLES.

Answers will vary. Here are some examples.

As they both stared at the pouring rain, Charlie Brown told Snoopy, “If it doesn’t stop raining, I won’t be able to go out and get your dog dish.”

Charlie Brown put on his rain gear and dramatically declared, “So I’ll make the supreme sacrifice . . . I’ll put on my rain outfit and brave the elements!”

After Charlie Brown went outside, Snoopy sarcastically thought, “Afterwards we can have the awarding of medals.”

A woman sweetly asked her husband, “What’s the weather going to be today?”

The husband, sick of weather small talk, snapped, “How should I know?”

“What I MEANT was go turn on the weather channel!” the wife retorted. “After all this time you should be able to translate!”

The husband shuddered and thought to himself, “I’ll never learn to speak ‘Martha-ese’.”



“Those cows are really chowing,” said Wiggy to Ziggy.

“Yeah, they’re eating their heads off!” Ziggy responded in amazement.

“Not me, I’m a vegetarian,” giggled Norwell the cow.

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 19

IF A QUOTATION IS MORE THAN ONE PARAGRAPH LONG . . .

Dear Mom and Dad,

I’m so thankful you made me come to Camp Huckamuck. I didn’t believe you, Dad, when you said, “I spent some of the best summers of my life at Camp Huckamuck.” You were so right. I also didn’t agree with you, Mom, when you said, “A summer at camp will do you good, honey.”

You both just will not believe how good Camp Huckamuck has been for me. You see, I’ve fallen madly and deeply in love.

Now, don’t freak out. I know you both always warn me about giving my heart away, but you can’t be right all the time. I guess I should tell you that Digital (That’s his name!) is part human

and part robot. That may seem a little weird to you, but this sort of thing always works out on *Star Trek*. Plus, it worked out perfectly for Digital's parents: His mom is a robot, and his dad is a human. I'll admit that I was a little skeptical about a robot-human relationship at first, but Digital convinced me that I was just being narrow-minded.

He said, "While I have a central processor and you have a brain, we both know what love means. Although I'm connected with wires instead of veins, I still have a heart that beats only for you. Your exquisite beauty sometimes causes my hard drive to overheat, but that is a price I'm willing to pay.

"I am part human, so we are not completely different. Although these similarities may connect us, our differences will keep our love alive."

Can you believe it? Isn't Digital romantic? Again, Mom and Dad, I thank you a million times for making me go to Camp Huckamuck. It really has changed my life.

Love you,
Jeanette

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 20

KEEP DIALOGUE INTERESTING.

Answers may vary, but here are some possibilities.

Part One

- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. replied | 4. clamored | 7. snapped | 10. explained | 13. answered |
| 2. sighed | 5. stuttered | 8. yelled | 11. argued | 14. asked |
| 3. muttered | 6. whispered | 9. chuckled | 12. shrieked | 15. notified |

Part Two

1. "There's a gelfomoot in my closet!" shrieked Arnie Minkfuzz.
2. "Could you bring me some sardine oatmeal for breakfast?" the liffensneeter begged.
3. "I can make all your wishes come true," Fenwick the slimy frog prince promised.
4. "I couldn't believe it," exclaimed chief lifeguard Louanna Smatana, "when the Lake Malarky ghost started howling during the fireworks."
5. Lothar the Liver Lover bellowed, "Bring me my midnight snack!"
6. "Oh no, I left the salamander souffle on the table," Gazzilla groaned, "and now it's mysteriously disappeared."
7. "Don't forget to floss and sharpen your fangs before you go to bed," reminded Momma Snagglesnoot.
8. "Get that snortworter out of my clean cave!" Ock's mother yelled.

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 21

LET ME REVIEW THE RULES.

"I've been in sticky situations before, but this has to be the worst," complained the firefly, hoping someone would hear him.

"Of course you can't move," a voice replied.

"Who's there?" the firefly asked as he tried once again to move his captured wings.

"You can call me Ms. Spider," his host replied, but she made no offer to free the firefly.

"Did you just say 'Call me Ms. Spider'?" the firefly asked.

There was no answer. "Surely I misunderstood her," he thought. "If she's Ms. Spider, then that makes me Mr. Snack."

Before he had time to put his fear into words, Ms. Spider asked, "I've seen you around before. Aren't you that firefly who hangs around with that ladybug named Kate?"

"Yes, I am," the firefly said with a smile, "but I haven't seen her in several days. Kate is such a sweet girl."

Ms. Spider replied with a secret little smile, "Yes, she is."

"Oh drat!" Ms. Spider yelled before the firefly could respond. "My thread is tangled, and it's too dark for me to see how to get it undone."

"Allow me," said the firefly, and his body lit up like a flashlight.

"Why, that's wonderful!" exclaimed Ms. Spider as she quickly untied the knotted thread. "Mr. Firefly, I must say I am most impressed with your kindness, and since you were kind enough to help me, I'm going to let you go."

She undid his wings and sent him on his way, but he heard her yell into the darkness, "I must warn you, though, that if you ever come and visit me again, I'll simply insist that you stay for dinner!"

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 22

CONVERSATION WITH A VAMPIRE

Answers will vary. Here is one possibility.

As Jerry Springer announced, "Today's topic is 'You Won't Believe the Secret I've Been Keeping!'," his studio audience jumped to its feet and cheered.

"You may all be wondering why we have turned the lights in the studio so low, but I can't tell you without revealing the secret of our first guest," explained Springer.

"Let's all give a warm Springer Show welcome to Heidi Hemoglobin!" Springer said, and the audience erupted in cheers again.

"Hello, Heidi," welcomed Springer. "You wanted to come on the show today to reveal a deep dark secret to your prom date. Why don't you fill us in before we bring your date out?"

"I'm pretty nervous," giggled Heidi, as she buried her face in her hands. "I've just never told anyone this, and now I'm going to announce it on television!"

"Sometimes, it is easier just to blurt out what you need to say without thinking about it," explained Springer.

"OK. Here it goes. I'm . . . a . . . vampire!" shouted Heidi. "Whew! There I said it."

The audience gasped, then burst into deafening applause.

"How do you feel now that you got that off of your chest? And how long have you been keeping this secret?" asked Springer.

"Hey, I do feel much better," Heidi said, surprised. "I've been carting around that heavy secret for all 16 years of my life."

"What has been the hardest part about keeping your secret?" asked Springer.

"The sunlight issue has been the toughest. As you know, daylight is fatal for all vampires. It has been so difficult coming up with reasons why I can't go outside during the day and to insist that every room I'm in has to remain dark," explained Heidi. "Even worse than that, though, is missing out on all the fun stuff that my friends do in the daylight, like going to the beach, skiing and fly-fishing."

"Wow! I can't imagine," exclaimed Springer. "What other problems have you encountered?"

"There is also the garlic thing. I don't know if everyone knows this, but vampires also cannot eat garlic. In fact, it is deadly for a vampire to even be near garlic," said Heidi. "So, basically, that means that ALL Italian food is off limits for me."

"Hold on one second, Heidi, we have an audience question," said Springer as he ran towards a young man in the audience who was raising his hand.

Springer thrust the microphone in the young man's face, and he asked, "What about pizza?"

"Pizza is definitely a no-no," explained Heidi to a horrified audience. "I can't even hang out at Barry's Pizzeria with my friends because Barry uses so much garlic in his pizza sauce.

"To tell the truth, this whole issue over garlic is what made me realize that I had to come clean with my prom date."

"How is that?" asked an interested Springer.

"Dan, that's my prom date, already made dinner reservations at a romantic Italian restaurant for prom night. He told me that he couldn't wait to slurp spaghetti and nibble on some garlic bread with me. When he said that, I knew that no matter what, I had to tell him the truth," said Heidi as she dabbed the tears from her eyes.

"Well, Heidi, after these commercial messages, you can finally tell Dan the truth," said Springer. Then, Springer shouted to his television audience, "We'll be right back with 'You Won't Believe the Secret I've Been Keeping!'"

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 23

PUNCTUATING THE SWAMPVILLE GAZETTE

Isabelle Gootsworth told authorities yesterday that she saw a ghost in her home Saturday night. When questioned by authorities she replied, "I did see a ghost. It's not my fault that you can't see it too."

Neighbors say that Gootsworth is known for her unusual stories. Just last year she claimed to see the ghost of Elvis near her stereo.

"He was there, I tell you," she said. "He was singing and dancing. Then my son walked in and scared him. I kept hoping that he would come back and finish singing about his blue suede shoes, but I waited up all night, and he never did come back."

Next time I'm definitely buying donuts. I just know he'd have come back if I had some donuts around."

Gootsworth told police that it was the ghost of Captain Crunch who visited her Saturday. The officer on duty asked, "How did you know it was the ghost of Captain Crunch?"

Mrs. Gootsworth replied that she could tell it was the Captain because every time he moved she could hear a distinctive crunch-crunch sound.

Officers had no comment, but they are suggesting that people stay out of the vicinity of Maple Avenue and Elm Drive.

"We aren't taking this lightly," said Officer Milton Powell. "We don't want anyone to get in the way of this ghost just in case he turns out to be a cereal killer."

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 24

LET'S REVIEW MORE PUNCTUATION RULES.

1. C
2. "Touch my book of spells, and I'll turn you into a frog," the witch cackled.
3. C
4. C
5. "I think," she replied, "there's no such thing as monsters. I'm just looking under my bed for giant dust bunnies."
6. C
7. "No one ever has a camera when they run into Big Foot," Brett said.

8. "I once thought my teacher was an alien," Jack said.
9. Janice asked, "Have you ever told ghost stories at a slumber party?"
10. C
11. He asked, "How old are you in dog years?"
12. Grandma asked, "Do you want a sweater or a book for your birthday?"

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 25

TIME FOR A TEST

"Do you understand direct and indirect quotations?" asked Mrs. Glickmeister.

"I certainly do," said Glorm.

"So do I," said Frebble.

"We all do!" exclaimed all the students together.

Mrs. Glickmeister smiled and said she was glad they were all so smart. "I think I will reward you," she continued, "by letting you read a story."

"A story!" shouted the students with great excitement. "What story is it?"

"The story," answered Mrs. Glickmeister, "is one you should all enjoy. It is called 'How Prepositional Phrases Made Me a Success in Life.'"

"It sounds terrific," said the students.

"Did you say 'It sounds terrific'?" asked Mrs. Glickmeister.

"Yes," answered the students. "You certainly are a wonderful teacher, Mrs. Glickmeister."

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 29

ITALICS AND UNDERLINING VS. QUOTATION MARKS

After I finish watching reruns of *The Brady Bunch*, I'm going to start learning the words to the song "I Am a Dentist" for our school's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. There was a story yesterday about our show in the *Pleasantville Gazette*. The headline read "Kids build a giant, man-eating plant for local show." Next week the magazine *Local Happenings* is also going to publish a piece about our musical.

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 30

NEVER USE BOTH QUOTATION MARKS AND UNDERLINING FOR A TITLE.

1. Wouldn't it be interesting if our food could talk? In the short story, "Attack of the Squashing Squash," a giant zucchini tries to sit on anyone who tries to fry him.
2. I once wrote a poem called "Ode to a Tomato." It was about how sad I get whenever a tomato is sliced and diced.
3. Tomatoes have a difficult life. They probably don't want to talk. They would probably rather write books with names like *Evil People Who Kill Vegetables*.
4. Whenever I get sad I like to sing "Put on a Happy Face" to try and cheer myself up.
5. My mother used to draw smiley faces on my sandwiches with mustard to try to get me to eat. She got the idea from an article called "How to Make Your Kids Eat."
6. It was in a magazine called *Raising Healthy Kids*.
7. I thought the article should be called "Mother Makes a Mess," but I never said that, of course.
8. Really, I am glad that our food can't say a thing. It would be just way too hard to swallow my food if it were singing "Baby, I Love You" as it went down.

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 31

QUOTATION MARKS INSIDE QUOTATION MARKS

1. “Have you ever read the short story ‘Janie’s Two Personalities,’ by Janie Sarah Smith? It’s a very interesting book because it’s written from two different perspectives,” Brandy said.
2. Stephanie argued, “There is no way the song ‘Nerdy Nicki’ can make it to the number one spot!”
3. “In this week’s issue of my magazine, there’s an article called ‘How to Get Out of Doing Homework.’ It looks like it will be very informative,” said Brittany.
4. “I just love the poem ‘My Cockroach, My Roommate,’ by Marie Phillips,” Derek said. “It really brings tears to my eyes.”
5. “I wrote a song for the songwriting contest,” Rhonda told her teacher. “I’m calling it ‘Homework Stinks.’ Do you think it has a chance to win?”
6. Irene said, “I called the radio station and asked them to play the song ‘Lost and Found,’ but the disc jockey said he couldn’t find it.”

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 32

PRACTICE USING QUOTATIONS

My first day driving alone was quite an experience. My parents made me read the book *Driving With Caution* and an article called “Don’t Be Reckless” before they would hand over the car keys. After I passed a quiz on both the book and the article, I was allowed to climb into the driver’s seat.

The minute I got away from the house, I cranked up the stereo. My favorite song, “Flying Free,” was playing on the radio. I looked over in the passenger’s seat at my stack of school-books. I was supposed to be on my way to Jamie’s house to study for a quiz on the short story called “Peaceful Night.” I was not looking forward to it, but getting to drive made the trip worth it.

My parents had given me strict instructions that nothing was to happen to their trusty old blue sedan. I had promised they could make me sit and watch the entire opera of *Madame Butterfly* if I so much as put even a smudge of dirt on the car.

When I arrived at Jamie’s house, her mother was watching her favorite television program, *Living in the Country*, and her father was reading a magazine. I could see the article was titled “I’m Always Right.” I decided then and there to steer clear of Jamie’s father and went looking for Jamie instead.

It didn’t take us long to finish the story and then do a chapter in our science books called “Magnetism: Get Stuck on It.” We were getting pretty sick of studying, so Jamie suggested we go for a drive. I naturally agreed because, after all, I had the keys.

We told her parents goodbye, and it wasn’t long before we were on the road and driving towards the paint ball field. My friends and I love to shoot paint ball guns in our spare time, but I knew my parents would not approve of my being at the field today. I figured what they didn’t know wouldn’t hurt me.

I sat in the car while my second favorite song, “One Fine Day,” finished playing. Then I heard a loud splattering noise. I jumped out of the car and could not believe my eyes. There on the side of my parents’ sedan was a huge glob of white paint.

Jamie and I quickly jumped into the car and raced for the car wash. I scrubbed and scrubbed, but the stubborn paint would not budge. I drove Jamie home in total silence and then went home. When I pulled into the driveway, my parents stood there waiting. I thought

my father looked like the wolf from the story “The Three Little Pigs.” I felt sure any minute he would huff and puff and blow something down.

“Wow!” I shouted as I got out of the car, trying to look surprised, as if noticing the white glob of goop for the very first time.

My father looked at me. He opened his mouth and then closed his mouth but no words came out. Then my mother looked at me. She gave me the strangest little smile as she managed to say, “That must have been one huge bird, Theodore.”

I handed over the car keys and then spent the next three weeks with my nose buried in a book called *How To Speak Italian*. After all, I don’t want to be too confused when we go to the opera.

ANSWER KEY, PAGE 33

QUOTATION MARKS WITH TITLES: QUIZ TIME

Part One

1. C
2. C
3. I love the song “My Lips Are Stuck,” by the Front Alley Guys.
4. My favorite episode of *Children’s World* is “Fingers and Toes,” which teaches children how to count.
5. The chapter “Keeping Your Tongue Clean” is one of the most interesting in the book on dental care.

Part Two

Answers will vary. Here are some possibilities.

1. Kimi won an award for her article called “The Cow who Surfed the Internet,” published in *Computer Fun Magazine*.
2. *The Simpsons* is absolutely the best show on television.
3. I can’t believe that Mrs. Chandler wants us read the entire chapter “Moss and Lichen” in one night. It is over 50 pages long.

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“ ”