

Monday 20th July 2020

To use direct speech punctuation

Direct speech punctuation is used to show the reader the exact words used by the character or person. This is different to reported speech. Reported speech gives the general meaning of the message but not the exact words.

Tom swallowed a lump in his throat.

"I'll miss you," said William.

Tom nodded. "Me too."

Direct speech uses inverted commas to show the spoken words. It also uses a reporting clause, which tells the reader who spoke and how they spoke. This is underlined.

The direct speech needs to start with a capital letter. If the reporting clause comes after the spoken words, then a comma is used to separate the two clauses and a full stop closes the sentence. Or the reporting clause can come first. The sentence always ends with a full stop.

Finally, as a writer, you need to start a new paragraph when a different character speaks. This is similar to a playscript but makes it easier for the reader to keep a track on which character is speaking.

S.C.

New paragraph for a different speaker.

Inverted commas around the spoken words.

Reporting clause with how the speaker spoke the words.

Use an adverb to give detail of any actions and manner.

Use exclamation marks, question marks or full stops within the inverted commas.

Red = try the first five

Green = try all of the questions

Blue = try all of these and set two of your own.

Q1.

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

Tick **one**.

Our parents always say "work hard and do your best."

Our parents always say, "work hard and do your best."

Our parents always say, "Work hard and do your best."

Our parents always say "Work hard and do your best."

1 mark

Q2.

Tick two boxes to show where the missing **inverted commas** should go.

Roman life was unlike modern life, the archaeologist said.

1 mark

Q3.

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

Abdul called out, "will you come and help me?"

Abdul called out "Will you come and help me"

Abdul called out, "Will you come and help me"?

Abdul called out, "Will you come and help me?"

Tick **one**.

1 mark

Q4.

Add the missing **inverted commas** to the passage below.
Maya whispered , I can see a baby hedgehog ! Keep quiet so we don't scare it .

1 mark

Q5.

Which sentence uses **inverted commas** correctly?

"Follow me! shouted the tour leader."

"Follow me! "shouted the tour leader."

"Follow me!" shouted the tour leader.

"Follow me"! shouted the tour leader.

Tick **one**.

1 mark

Q6.

Rewrite the sentence below as **direct speech**.

Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

She asked if he wanted a banana.

She asked him, _____

1 mark

Q7.

Rewrite the sentence below as **direct speech**.

Remember to punctuate your sentence correctly.

I asked her if she needed any help.

I asked, _____

1 mark



Mark schemes

Q1.

Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.

Our parents always say, "Work hard and do your best."

1 mark

Q2.

Roman life was very unlike modern life, the archaeologist said.

1 mark

Q3.

Abdul called out, "Will you come and help me?"

1 mark

Q4.

Award 1 mark for correctly placed inverted commas.

Maya whispered, "[I can see a baby hedgehog! Keep quiet so we don't scare it.]"

1 mark

Q5.

“Follow me!” shouted the tour leader.

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<input type="checkbox"/>

1 mark

Q6.

Award 1 mark for a correctly punctuated response, e.g.

- She asked him, “Do you want a banana?”

Also accept minor errors that preserve the basic meaning, e.g.

- She asked him, “Would you like a banana?”
- She asked him, “Do you want bananas?”

1 mark

Q7.

Award 1 mark for an appropriate, grammatically correct and accurately punctuated sentence in direct speech, e.g.

- I asked, “Do you need any help?”
- I asked, ‘Do you need me to help you?’
- I asked, “Is any help needed?”
- I asked, “Would you like me to help you?”
- I asked, “Do you need any help with that?”
- I asked, ‘Rosie, do you need me to help you?’