Direct vs. Reported Speech

- It is easy to convert between direct and reported speech.
- For example:

Direct speech	Reported speech
"If I had to pick just one, I'd say blue is my favourite colour," said Noah.	Noah told me his favourite colour was blue.
"Are you busy tonight?" asked Jess	Jess asked if I was busy that night.

Direct vs. Reported Speech

- Reported speech is a simple, but effective, way of moving stories on.
- For example, instead of having a main character retell a whole series of events (which can take pages of dialogue!) you can simply write that they *explained what had happened.*

Inverted Commas

Inverted Commas

- Inverted commas are also known as speech marks.
- They are used to show when someone is speaking.
- Although it may look complicated, by following just a few simple rules you can become an expert at punctuating direct speech.

Rules for Punctuating Direct Speech

1. Place " " around the words which are spoken.
2. Use a capital letter at the start of a speech sentence (even if it is in the middle of another sentence).
3. Before you close your inverted commas use a comma, question mark or exclamation mark to separate what was said from the speaker.
4. If a new person speaks, start a new line.

For example:

"Should we tell the humans we can speak English?" asked Stuart.

Kevin replied, "No, definitely not."

'No' is capitalised because it is the **start** of the speech sentence.

The punctuation placed before closing the inverted commas is a **?** as Stuart asked a question

For example:

"I'll race you there!" said Isla.

Despite coming after an ! , said is **not** capitalised.

"You'll win then," murmured Emery, "you're much faster than I am."

'you're' doesn't need a capital letter because it is **not** the start of the speech sentence.

Punctuating Direct Speech

Can you punctuate the speech in these sentences correctly?

- What time are we going out asked Zoe.

  "What time are we going out**?"** asked Zoe.

- Yasmin shouted look out

  Yasmin shouted, **"L**ook out**!"**

- Besides said Sam thoughtfully what was she doing there anyway

  "Besides**,"** said Sam thoughtfully, **"**what was she doing there anyway**?"**

Remember: Put inverted commas around what the speaker says, start each speech sentence with a capital letter and place a piece of punctuation before closing your inverted commas.

Punctuating Direct Speech

Can you rewrite this section of text using the correct punctuation?

did you eat the last doughnut Hannah asked her little brother. no I had carrot sticks for my snack replied Zac innocently. then where questioned Hannah did the sugar all around your mouth come from. smiling mischievously, Zac responded I'm not sure, but it definitely wasn't from your doughnut

Punctuating Direct Speech

Can you rewrite this section of text using the correct punctuation?

"Did you eat the last doughnut?" Hannah asked her little brother.

"No, I had carrot sticks for my snack," replied Zac innocently.

"Then where," questioned Hannah, "did the sugar all around your mouth come from?"

Smiling mischievously, Zac responded, "I'm not sure, but it definitely wasn't from your doughnut!"

Remember: New speaker, new line.

Reporting Clause

Reporting Clause

- Direct speech will almost always need a **reporting clause.**
- A reporting clause tells the reader who the speaker was and how they spoke.
- For example:

"I came 1st!" shouted Frank excitedly.

This is a reporting clause – it tells you that Frank was our speaker and he was shouting excitedly.

Reporting Clause

- A reporting clause can come before, after or split the direct speech. For example:

Location	Sentence
Before	Dan asked hungrily, "Do you know what time lunch is?"
After	"Do you know what time is lunch is?" Dan asked hungrily.
Embedded	"Do you know," Dan asked hungrily, "what time lunch is?"

- Varying the location of the reporting clause keeps your writing interesting for the reader.

Reporting Clause

Can you change the position of the reporting clause?

Location	Sentence
Before	Darcey whispered quietly, "I think we should hide upstairs."
After	"I think we should hide upstairs," whispered Darcey quietly.
Embedded	"I think," Darcey whispered quietly, "we should hide upstairs."

CAREFUL
You may have to add, remove or change some punctuation when you move the reporting clause.

Synonyms for Said

Synonyms for Said

- Repeatedly using the word 'said' after every speech sentence is a quick way of making your writing very boring for others to read.
- Keep a thesaurus handy and refer to it when writing dialogue to keep your writing interesting.