

Speech Marks

In stories, characters often speak so we need to make sure we punctuate the way that they speak so that we know who says what and how they say it.

There are some golden rules for speech:

- 1) Put inverted commas (" ") around what is actually said.
- 2) Begin a new line (paragraph) for every new speaker.
- 3) Always begin a new piece of speech with a capital letter.
- 4) Always put some punctuation at the end of the speech – it could be a . , ! or ? depending on what you've written.

Have a look at my example:



"What now?" asked Pete in trepidation.

"You distract 'em and I will grab the mirror," replied Polly confidently.

The speech marks (inverted commas) go around what is said

This is what Pete says
(capital letter starts
the speech)

This is what Polly
says. A capital
letter starts the
speech. As there is
a new speaker
there is a new
paragraph.

"What now?" asked Pete in trepidation.

"You distract 'em and I will grab the mirror,"
replied Polly confidently.

This tells us
who said it
and how they
said it.

Punctuation just before the
speech marks close