

Direct Speech

We use inverted commas or speech marks in our writing to show when someone is talking. This is called direct speech. For example, "Can I have a sweet?" the girl asked.

Part A

Use inverted commas to punctuate the direct speech in the following sentences:

1. What is the date today? asked Billy.
2. Would you like a piece of cake? Granny asked.
3. My best friend's name is Chloe, Becky said.
4. You need to learn your times tables, said the teacher.
5. Can I go out to play? asked the boy.

Now, write two direct speech sentences of your own using the characters from the book.

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Direct Speech Answers

Part A

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1. *“What is the date today?” asked Billy.*
2. *“Would you like a piece of cake?” Granny asked.*
3. *“My best friend’s name is Chloe,” Becky said.*
4. *“You need to learn your times tables,” said the teacher.*
5. *Can I go out to play?” asked the boy.*

Part B

Rewrite each direct speech sentence with all the correct punctuation:

1. *“We won’t be able to play football today because it’s too wet,” said Simon.*
2. *“Are we going swimming tomorrow?” questioned Lydia.*
3. *“What an amazing smile you have!” exclaimed the Big Bad Wolf.*

Challenge Task

Now, can you try and write a set of rules for writing direct speech.

Children should create a list of rules for writing direct speech, for example:

When writing direct speech, you need to remember...

- *to put inverted commas around just the spoken words;*
- *to use a , or ! or ? before the last set of inverted commas if you are going to say who is speaking;*
- *to use a capital letter at the beginning of the speech;*
- *to try and use a more interesting word for said;*
- *to end the sentence with a full stop.*