Punctuating Direct Speech

Part A

Look at the sentences below. Can you identify the errors and correct them?

1. The boy "shouted, Go away!"

   _____

2. I don't understand "said the dolphin.

   _____

3. The driver asked "Which way?

   _____

4. "can you tell me where the errors are?" queried the student.

   _____

Punctuating Direct Speech

Part B

Look at the sentences below. Can you identify the errors and correct them?

1. The boy "shouted, Go away!" No replied his brother

   _____

2. I don't understand "said the dolphin. We only stopped for five minutes"

   _____

3. The driver asked "Which way? "Straight ahead and then third left. called the passenger.

   _____

What are the rules when punctuating direct speech?

Challenge Task

Have a go at writing some direct speech incorrectly for your partner to identify the errors.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Punctuating Direct Speech Answers

Part A

1. The boy "shouted, Go away!"

    - *The boy shouted, "Go away!"*

2. I don't understand "said the dolphin.

    - *"I don't understand," said the dolphin.*

3. The driver asked "Which way?

    - *The driver asked, "Which way?"*

4. "can you tell me where the errors are?" queried the student.

    - *"Can you tell me where the errors are?" queried the student.*

Part B

1. The boy "shouted, Go away!" No replied his brother

    - *The boy shouted, "Go away!"*
    - *"No!" replied his brother.*

2. I don't understand "said the dolphin. We only stopped for five minutes"

    - *"I don't understand," said the dolphin. "We only stopped for five minutes."*

3. The driver asked "Which way? "Straight ahead and then third left. called the passenger.

    - *The driver asked, "Which way?"*
    - *"Straight ahead and then third left," called the passenger.*

What are the rules when punctuating direct speech?

- *Spoken words are enclosed in inverted commas.*
- *Use a reporting clause to say who is speaking.*
- *Punctuation inside inverted commas.*
- *Use a comma after the reporting clause if it is written before the speech.*
- *Each new speaker needs a new line.*
- *The speech of each new speaker starts with a capital letter.*

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