

# Direct and Indirect Speech



Inverted commas are used when punctuating direct speech.

## Direct Speech

“What big teeth you have, Grandma!” exclaimed Little Red Riding Hood.

The exact words of the speaker are enclosed in inverted commas.

The exact words of the speaker are quoted with no change to their content or order.

The correct punctuation is used before the inverted commas close.

There is often a reporting clause to explain who said the words.

## Indirect Speech

Indirect speech is sometimes known as reported speech. No inverted commas are used.

With surprise, Little Red Riding Hood commented on how big Grandma’s teeth were.

An adverb or prepositional phrase may be added to explain how, when or where the words were spoken.

The actual words of the speaker are often changed. Extra words may be added and pronouns may need to be changed.

There are no reporting clauses.