

Punctuating direct speech (I)

When we write the words that someone has said, this is **direct speech**. We use **inverted commas (speech marks)** to show the beginning and end of the speech, including its punctuation.

If a statement in speech comes before an explanation like 'Paolo said', the speech ends with a comma. The explanation does not use a capital letter unless it is a proper noun, like a name.



- "Here is your soup," said the waitress.
- "I hope you like it," Paul said.

Get started

Copy out each sentence and label it 'correct' or 'incorrect' to show whether **all** the punctuation has been used correctly. Underline the incorrect parts of the sentences. One has been done for you.



1. *"Today we will be painting,"
Announced Mrs Blake. incorrect*
2. "That sounds fun replied Katie."
3. "I can't wait to start," added Alistair.
4. "shall I get the paints?" Tariq asked.
5. Mrs Blake replied, "Yes, that would be helpful."
6. "I'm going to use lots of colours" said Katie.
7. "Use this paper," Mrs Blake instructed us.
8. Shelby said, "I wonder what we're painting."

Try these

Copy and complete these sentences by adding the correct punctuation. One has been done for you.

1. "We are going to paint this fruit," stated Mrs Blake.
2. I wonder if we can eat some Carrie whispered
3. Don't be so silly retorted Hasan
4. Please get started urged Mrs Blake
5. Shaul spilled the water jug squeaked Pippa
6. Perhaps you could help to clear it up Mrs Blake said calmly
7. Alistair's painting something different called Tariq
8. That's enough talking replied Mrs Blake



Now try these

Write a conversation of at least four sentences about each of these topics. Try to use speech before explanations in your conversation.

1. Two children discussing a TV programme
2. A family talking about plans for the weekend
3. A teacher telling a class about some homework
4. Children arguing about who broke something
5. Two brothers deciding how to get somewhere
6. Two sisters considering how to build something

