

Year 3 Punctuation: Using Inverted Commas for Direct Speech

Learning From Home Activity Booklet

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Be the Teacher!

Inverted commas are used to show direct speech in your writing; they are placed before and after the words a character says. For example:

“Pass the sauce,” said Jill.

Read the sentences below and tick the sentence which is punctuated correctly using inverted commas.

1. “I don’t like carrots,” said the little girl. ☐
I don’t like carrots, “said the little girl.” ☐
2. “It’s time for bed, said” Dad. ☐
“It’s time for bed,” said Dad. ☐
3. Write the date in your book, the teacher told “the children.” ☐
“Write the date in your book,” the teacher told the children. ☐
4. “Let down your hair,” the knight shouted to the princess. ☐
Let down your hair, “the knight shouted” to the princess. ☐
5. Abracadabra! said the witch “as she cast a spell.” ☐
“Abracadabra!” said the witch as she cast a spell. ☐
6. “The cat chased me through the garden,” whispered the mouse. ☐
The cat chased me through the garden, “whispered the mouse.” ☐
7. “Jim ate all the jam,” Katie told her mum. ☐
“Jim ate all the jam Katie,” told her mum. ☐

Challenge: Add inverted commas to the sentence below:

Where is my shirt? asked Guy.

Punctuation Challenge 1

In writing, we show what a character is saying by adding **inverted commas** or **speech marks** (" ") before and after the words a character says. For example:

"I went there yesterday," said the man.

The words between the inverted commas (in **bold**) are what the man says. If the direct speech isn't a question or an exclamation sentence, then before **closing the inverted commas**, you usually place a comma (,) to separate what was said from who said it.

Add inverted commas to the sentences below. Don't forget to add the comma too.

1. We went to Spain on holiday said Charlie.
2. I like to cast wicked spells laughed the evil witch.
3. I saw the new film at the cinema last week said Jake.
4. I had cereal for my breakfast today Susie stated.
5. You go that way whispered Harriet to her friend.
6. My favourite drink is lemonade pronounced the boy.
7. I'm going to see my Grandma muttered Little Red Riding Hood.
8. Hello from the International Space Station uttered Tim.
9. Put down your pencils and look this way demanded the teacher.

Punctuation Challenge 2

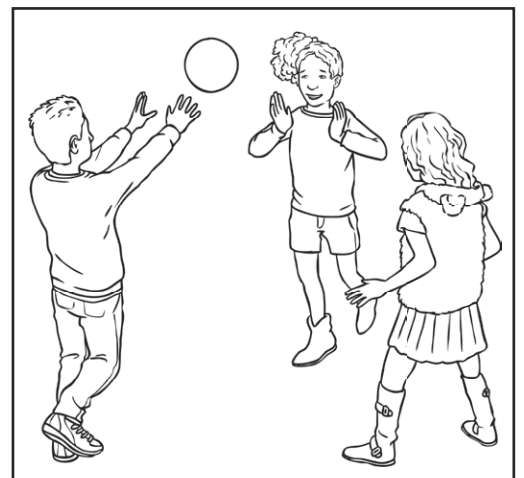
When writing direct speech, you should always insert an appropriate punctuation mark before the closing inverted commas. You can use a **comma** (,) a **question mark** (?) or an **exclamation mark** (!). A ? is used at the end of questions and a ! is for sentences that are exclamations, or that show shock or surprise. For example:

“Wow!” shouted the girl.

In each of the sentences below, choose which would be the most appropriate punctuation (, ! or ?) and add it to the sentence before the closing inverted commas.

1. “I will blow the house down ” roared the big, bad wolf.
2. “What planet is this ” asked the alien when he landed.
3. “I’ll see you later ” said Dad as he left the house.
4. “Stop ” shouted the policeman to the burglar.
5. “My job is collecting teeth ” the Tooth Fairy said.
6. “Can I have a toy castle for my birthday ” begged the boy.
7. “You’re only allowed to have three wishes ” stated the magic genie.

Challenge: Now it’s your turn! Using the picture below, write a direct speech sentence with inverted commas, which also includes either a ? or an !



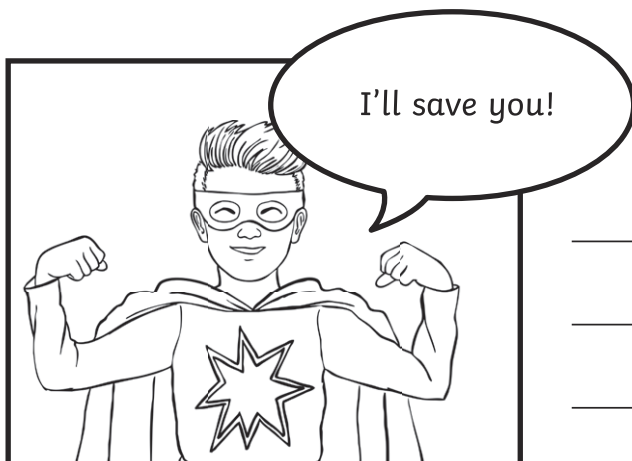
Comic Strip Speech

Below you will find some comic strip pictures with speech bubbles. Write a sentence for each picture containing direct speech. The first one has been done for you. You can also use the following said words to help you write your sentences.

said	asked	shouted	whispered
moaned	muttered	cried	yelled

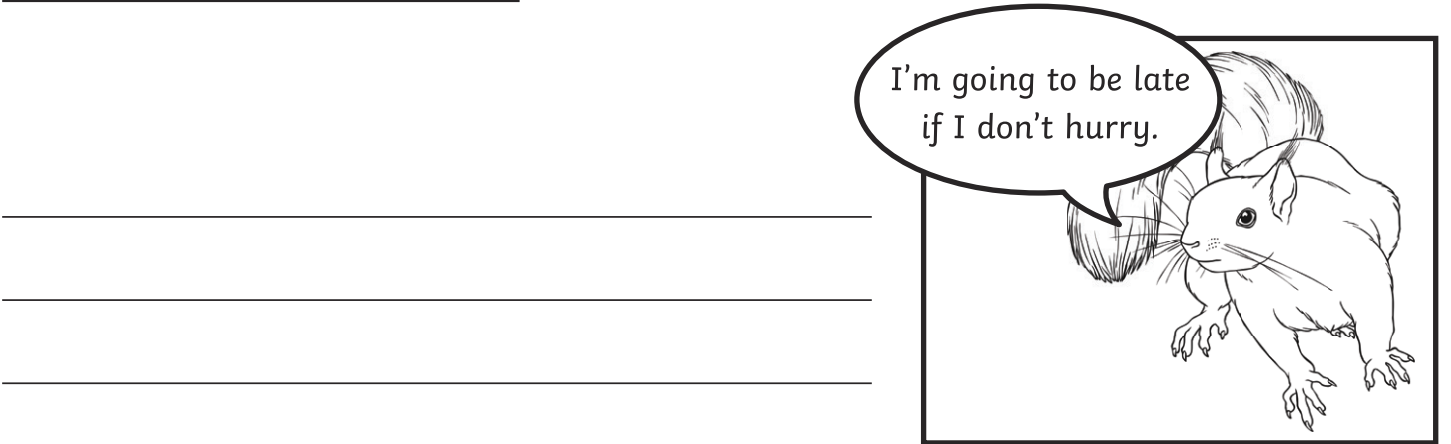


"I won!" shouted the woman as she jumped into the air.

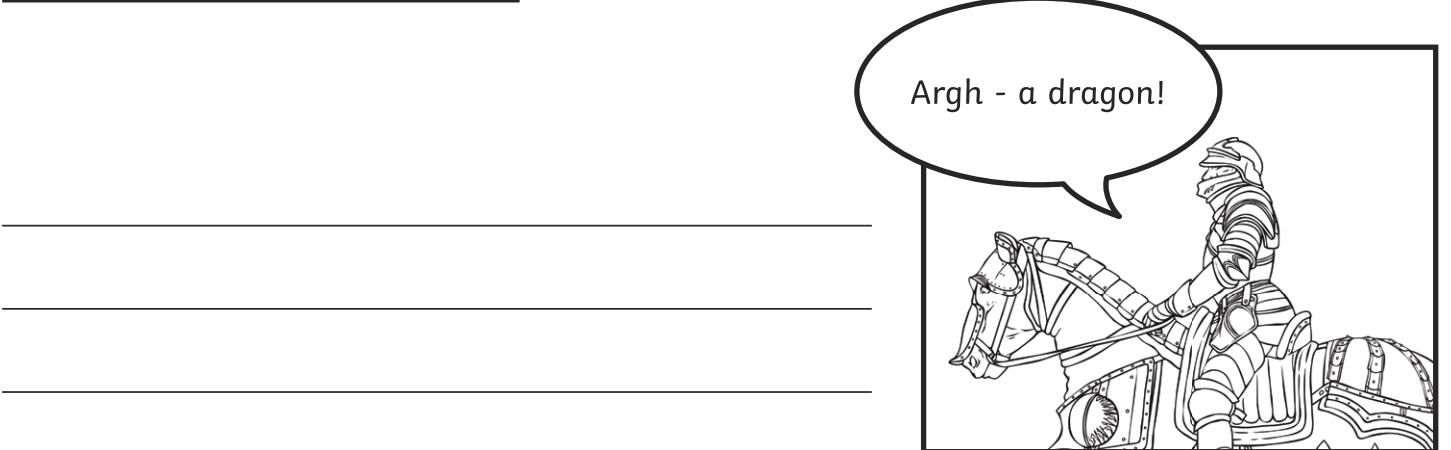


Comic Strip Speech



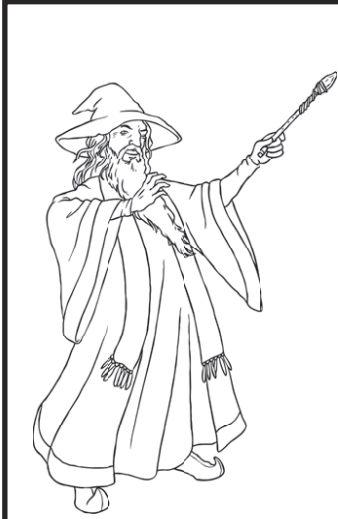






Comic Strip Speech

Challenge: Fill in the speech bubble for the witch and then write it into a direct speech sentence with inverted commas.



A Parent's Guide to Inverted Commas

In Year 3, your child will begin to learn how to use **inverted commas** (also known as **speech marks**) for direct speech in their writing. Although initially it may seem fairly easy to use inverted commas, it often takes children time to master the many rules and conventions when using speech punctuation correctly. Such as:

- Placing the inverted commas correctly.
- Starting all speech with a capital letter.
- Separating the speech from the rest of the sentence using either a , ? ! or .
- Placing the closing inverted commas after the punctuation that separates the speech from the rest of the sentence.
- Starting a new line each time a new speaker starts.

So, as you can see, there is a lot to consider when using inverted commas, which is why it can take time for children to master the correct usage of this type of punctuation.

In this Year 3 booklet, the focus is placed on using inverted commas around direct speech and using a , ? or ! before closing inverted commas when followed by the reporting clause (where the speaker of the speech is identified). Please see the glossary example of how reported clauses can be used in a different way.

Inverted Commas:	Inverted commas are also known as speech marks or sometimes quotation marks . They are placed around direct speech in writing to show the reader what the person or character says. Inverted commas can be used as “ (double) or ‘ (single). Either is acceptable but schools tend to teach children to use double inverted commas (often calling them a ‘66’ and a ‘99’). When using this booklet, please check whether you child is being taught to use double or single inverted commas to ensure that you are being consistent with what they are being taught in school.
Direct Speech:	When a writer wishes to show a reader exactly what a character is saying as opposed to reported speech , which is a summary or paraphrase of what the person or character says. For example: Direct Speech: “Time for break,” the teacher said. Reported Speech: The teacher told the children that it was time for break.
Reporting Clause:	The reporting clause is the part of the sentence that tells the reader who or what is speaking. When writing speech, the reporting clause can be placed before or after direct speech. The reporting clauses are bold in the following examples: “What’s for dinner?” asked the boy. Cheryl screamed, “Give me my toy back!”

Year 3 Punctuation: Using Inverted Commas for Direct Speech **Answers**

Be the Teacher!

Read the sentences below and tick the sentence which is punctuated correctly using inverted commas.

1. "I don't like carrots," said the little girl. ☒
I don't like carrots, "said the little girl." ☐
2. "It's time for bed, said" Dad. ☐
"It's time for bed," said Dad. ☒
3. Write the date in your book, the teacher told "the children." ☐
"Write the date in your book," the teacher told the children. ☒
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Let down your hair, "the knight shouted" to the princess. ☐
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"Abracadabra!" said the witch as she cast a spell. ☒
6. "The cat chased me through the garden," whispered the mouse. ☒
The cat chased me through the garden, "whispered the mouse." ☐
7. "Jim ate all the jam," Katie told her mum. ☒
"Jim ate all the jam Katie," told her mum. ☐

Challenge: Add inverted commas to the sentence below:

"Where is my shirt?" asked Guy.

Year 3 Punctuation: Using Inverted Commas for Direct Speech **Answers**

Punctuation Challenge 1

Add inverted commas to the sentences below. Don't forget to add the comma too.

1. "We went to Spain on holiday," said Charlie.
2. "I like to cast wicked spells," laughed the evil witch.
3. "I saw the new film at the cinema last week," said Jake.
4. "I had cereal for my breakfast today," Susie stated.
5. "You go that way," whispered Harriet to her friend.
6. "My favourite drink is lemonade," pronounced the boy.
7. "I'm going to see my Grandma," muttered Little Red Riding Hood.
8. "Hello from the International Space Station," uttered Tim.
9. "Put down your pencils and look this way," demanded the teacher.

Punctuation Challenge 2

In each of the sentences below, choose which would be the most appropriate punctuation (, ! or ?) and add it to the sentence before the closing inverted commas.

1. "I will blow the house down!" roared the big, bad wolf.
2. "What planet is this?" asked the alien when he landed.
3. "I'll see you later," said Dad as he left the house.
4. "Stop!" shouted the policeman to the burglar.
5. "My job is collecting teeth," the Tooth Fairy said.
6. "Can I have a toy castle for my birthday?" begged the boy.
7. "You're only allowed to have three wishes," stated the magic genie.

Challenge: Now it's your turn! Using the picture below, write a direct speech sentence with inverted commas, which also includes either a ? or an !

Accept any answer where direct speech is demarcated using inverted commas with a question or exclamation mark, e.g.

"Throw me the ball!" shouted Lauren as she tugged.

Year 3 Punctuation: Using Inverted Commas for Direct Speech **Answers**

Comic Strip Speech

Below you will find some comic strip pictures with speech bubbles. Write a sentence for each picture containing direct speech. The first one has been done for you. You can also use the following said words to help you write your sentences.

Accept direct speech sentences with the correct punctuation and a suitable said word.

Challenge: Fill in the speech bubble for the witch and then write it into a direct speech sentence with inverted commas.

Accept direct speech sentences with the correct punctuation and a suitable said word.