**WRITING DIRECT SPEECH**

Direct speech is where you write down **exactly** what someone says.

**A. If the words actually said (speech) come before the words telling you who is speaking (speaker):**

**For example:** "Who are you?" she asked.

1. Speech marks ( "inverted commas" ) before and after the words said.

2. A comma or an exclamation mark or a question mark after the last word said (and before the inverted commas).

**B. If the speech comes after the words telling you who is speaking.**

**For example:** Ben replied, "I don't really know."

1. Inverted commas before and after the words spoken.

2. Capital letter at first word said.

3. Comma between speaker and speech.

4. Full stop or exclamation mark or question mark after speech (before inverted commas.)

**C. If the speaker comes in between two sentences of direct speech.**

**For example:** "It's cold today," said Mum. "You should wear a coat."

1. Use two pairs of inverted commas.

2. Comma or question mark or exclamation mark after first sentence of speech.

3. Full stop after speaker.

4. Capital letter at first word of second sentence of speech.

5. Full stop or question mark or exclamation at end of second sentence of speech.

**D. If the speaker comes in the middle of one sentence of speech.**

**For example:** "Put up your hands," he snarled, "or I'll shoot."

1. Use two pairs of inverted commas.

2. Commas before and after speaker.

3. Second part of speech begins with a small letter.

4. Full stop or question mark or exclamation mark at end of second part of speech (before inverted commas).

**E. Conversation**

1. All previous rules apply where appropriate.

2. When someone stops speaking and someone else starts, **begin a new paragraph.**

I don’t wish to proceed with this business said Macbeth. What cried his wife, unable to believe her ears. You heard me said Macbeth. Were you drunk last night when you mentioned this to me asked Lady Macbeth. Don’t talk nonsense said her husband. Well, said Lady Macbeth I would rather kill my own baby than behave as you have done, you coward. Be quiet shouted Macbeth I'm as brave as any man. Well then said Lady Macbeth let’s go ahead with our plan. But what happens if we fail asked Macbeth. If we fail we fail said Lady Macbeth but if you keep up your courage we’ll not fail. You’re a brave woman said Macbeth.