

A note to parents: Direct speech is punctuated with inverted commas which are sometimes called speech marks or quotation marks. They are placed around direct speech to show the reader what a person says. Inverted commas can be either: single ‘ ’ or double “ ”.

“What’s for lunch?” asked Sally.

The inverted commas are placed around the speech (including the punctuation) and are usually followed – or preceded by – a reporting clause. This is the part of the sentence that tells the reader who is speaking, such as ‘**asked Sally**’.

Spot the Missing Speech Marks

Using Inverted Commas to Show Direct Speech

Look at the sentences below. Each one is missing inverted commas. Insert inverted commas around the direct speech in each sentence below.

1. What's for dinner dad? Jacinda asked her dad.
2. The witch looked at her sisters and asked, When will we three meet again?
3. The mouse looked at the fox and quivered, Please don't eat me.
4. I'm stuck! declared Sam as he held up his hand.
Can you help me please?
5. Goal! shouted the boy as the ball went to the back of the net.
6. John, can you hold this? asked Joanne.
7. Off with her head! shouted the Queen of Hearts.
8. The policeman asked, Can I see your licence please?

