

**Quotation Marks**

Quotation marks are used to show spoken words in direct speech. Direct speech is the dialogue, or words, between two or more people. Writers often use dialogue in narrative writing.

Place a quotation mark before the first word spoken in the dialogue. Place another quotation mark after the punctuation mark at the end of the dialogue.

"Where have you been? I was waiting at my house forever. You knew how important this birthday party was to me!" Alexis whined to Claire.

"I'm sorry," said Claire, "but my mother's car wouldn't start. We got here as fast as we could."



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## Commas in Dialogue

Dialogue is any group of spoken words set inside quotation marks. A dialog tag, such as *he said* or *she said* is often used to show who is speaking. Use a comma to separate dialogue from the person or people speaking.

If the dialogue tag is before the quotation, place a comma after the tag but before the quotation mark. If the tag is after the dialogue, place a comma inside the quotation mark.

Rylee said, "It's my favorite shirt."

Dialogue tag

"I'm going to wear those pants," said Rylee.

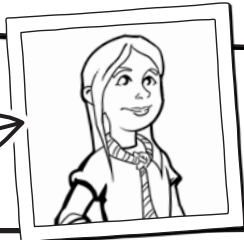
Dialogue tag

If the tag is in the middle of dialogue, place the first comma after the dialogue, inside the quotation marks. Place a second comma after the tag, before the next quotation mark.

"This shirt is not quite dry," said Rylee, "but I want to wear it now."

Dialogue tag

Tyler said, "Rylee knows a lot about commas."



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