



Using punctuation for direct speech

Today's Standard

4.L.2b - Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.

Cues	Notes
What are quotation marks used for?	Quotation marks indicate direct speech and quotations from texts.
Where do commas go in relation to quotation marks?	In American English, commas and periods go inside the quotation marks.
How are direct quotes punctuated?	Direct quotes are punctuated with quotation marks at the beginning and end, and commas or periods inside the marks.
What is the purpose of using quotation marks in writing?	Quotation marks help clarify who is speaking and differentiate between the writer's words and someone else's words.
What are common mistakes with quotation marks?	Common mistakes include placing commas outside the quotation marks and using quotation marks only for dialogue.

Summary

Quotation marks are used for direct speech and quotations. Commas and periods go inside the quotation marks in American English. Understanding these rules is essential for clear and accurate writing.