

Inverted Commas ""

Direct and Reported Speech

Reported speech is exactly that! It is speech that has already happened, and so you are reporting it:

The man said that he was superman!

Direct speech is happening now. This is when you need to use punctuation.

The man said "I am superman!"



Inverted Commas

Direct and Reported Speech

Notice these changes:

The man said that he was superman!

'That' is removed, and the pronoun changes to show directly what was said.

Inverted commas are added around the actual words used. The exclamation mark goes BEFORE the closing inverted commas.

The man said "I am superman!"

Inverted Commas

Direct and Reported Speech

On whiteboards, rewrite these sentences into direct speech:



- 1) The footballer said that he was the best!
- 2) The boy gasped that he couldn't swim!
- 3) The man demanded that the driver take him to the airport.
- 4) The woman asked if she could have some flowers.
- 5) The girl will be better in the morning the doctor said, as long as she rested.

Inverted Commas



Speaking and
Listening



Direct and Reported Speech

On whiteboards, rewrite these sentences into direct speech:



Possible answers (note the highlighted parts)

- 1) The footballer said "I am the best!"
- 2) The boy gasped "I can't swim!"
- 3) "Take me to the airport," demanded the man.
- 4) The woman asked "Can I have some flowers?"
- 5) "The girl will be better in the morning," the doctor said,
"As long as she rests."

Inverted Commas



Speaking and Listening 



Split speech:

"The girl will be better in the morning," the doctor said, "as long as she rests."

We need a comma (or !?) after the first part to show it will continue.

A comma or full stop to show that the speech is about to start again.

'No!' he cried. "You can't leave now!"

Notice that there is no capital for 'he', even though it follows a exclamation mark.

Inverted Commas



Speaking and
Listening



Discuss if this direct speech is correct.
If not, what is wrong?

"Time to go to bed," the mother said.



Inverted Commas



Speaking and
Listening



Discuss if this direct speech is correct.
If not, what is wrong?

"Time to go to bed," the mother said.

This is correct!

Inverted Commas



Speaking and
Listening



Discuss if this direct speech is correct.
If not, what is wrong?

"Wait for me here" she instructed him.



Inverted Commas



Speaking and
Listening



Discuss if this direct speech is correct.
If not, what is wrong?

"Wait for me here" she instructed him.

Not correct - there should be a
comma after 'here'

Inverted Commas



Speaking and
Listening



Discuss if this direct speech is correct.
If not, what is wrong?

Politely she asked, "Can I have some food"?



Inverted Commas



Speaking and
Listening



Discuss if this direct speech is correct.
If not, what is wrong?

Politely she asked, "Can I have some food"?

Not correct - ? should come before
the closing inverted commas.

Inverted Commas



Speaking and
Listening



Discuss if this direct speech is correct.
If not, what is wrong?

"This is the best show ever!" he said proudly.



Inverted Commas



Speaking and
Listening



Discuss if this direct speech is correct.
If not, what is wrong?

"This is the best show ever!" he said proudly.

All correct! 'he' should not have a capital.

Inverted Commas



Speaking and
Listening



Discuss if this direct speech is correct.
If not, what is wrong?

"I am watching you very carefully," stated the
detective, "every hour, every day."



Inverted Commas



Speaking and
Listening

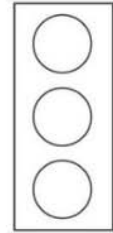


Discuss if this direct speech is correct.
If not, what is wrong?

"I am watching you very carefully," stated the
detective, "every hour, every day."

All correct!

Inverted Commas



Part 1: Add the punctuation to these sentences.

1. Where are you going he asked her.
2. She said I usually do my homework.
3. I am sick she said.
4. Get your coat the mother instructed.
5. Do you live in Beckton he asked.

Part 2: Change from reported to direct speech.

1. He told her to stop cring.
2. They asked if I was going for lunch.
3. She said that she would be late.

Part 3: Change to split reported speech:

1. The man said the police could not take him to prison. He knew his rights.
2. My mother ordered be to go away and stop bothering her.
3. David said he was leaving the school. His parents were moving house.

Examples:

"This is the best show ever!" he said proudly.

"I am watching you very carefully," stated the detective, "every hour, every day."