

# Commas and Quotation Marks in Quoted Speech

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

When you write what someone says, put their exact words inside quotation marks. Use a comma to separate the speaker tag from the quotation. Capitalize the first word of the quoted speech. End punctuation (periods, commas, question marks, exclamation marks) usually goes **INSIDE** the closing quotation mark. Example: Maya said, "I love art."

## PRACTICE

Choose the best answer.

- Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - Maya said "I love art."
  - Maya said, "i love art."
  - Maya said, "I love art".
  - Maya said, "I love art."
- Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - The coach yelled, "Run faster!"
  - The coach yelled "Run faster!"
  - The coach yelled, "Run faster"!
  - The coach yelled, "run faster!"
- What is wrong with this sentence? Ben said, "we should go now."
  - The comma is in the wrong place.
  - The first word of the quotation should be capitalized.
  - The period should be outside the quotation marks.
  - There should be no comma after 'said'.
- What is wrong with this sentence? "I am tired", Mom said.
  - 'Mom' should not be capitalized.
  - There should be no comma at all.
  - The comma should be inside the quotation marks: "I am tired," Mom said.
  - 'Tired' should be capitalized.



5. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - A. "Where are you going?" Asked Sara.
  - B. "Where are you going?" asked Sara.
  - C. "Where are you going"? asked Sara.
  - D. "where are you going?" asked Sara.
6. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - A. Dad said "Close the door, please."
  - B. Dad said, "close the door, please."
  - C. Dad said, "Close the door, please".
  - D. Dad said, "Close the door, please."
7. Which sentence has the comma in the correct place?
  - A. "I finished my homework," said Leo.
  - B. "I finished my homework", said Leo.
  - C. "I finished my homework" said, Leo.
  - D. "I finished, my homework" said Leo.
8. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - A. "It is snowing"! shouted Mia.
  - B. "It is snowing!" Shouted Mia.
  - C. "It is snowing!" shouted Mia.
  - D. "it is snowing!" shouted Mia.
9. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - A. "I will," she said, "Be there at three."
  - B. "I will," she said, "be there at three."
  - C. "I will" she said, "be there at three."
  - D. "I will," She said, "be there at three."
10. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
  - A. "Can we play outside"? asked Jamal.
  - B. "can we play outside?" asked Jamal.
  - C. "Can we play outside?" Asked Jamal.
  - D. "Can we play outside?" asked Jamal.



## Answer Keys

- 1  A  B  C  D
- 2  A  B  C  D
- 3  A  B  C  D
- 4  A  B  C  D
- 5  A  B  C  D

- 6  A  B  C  D
- 7  A  B  C  D
- 8  A  B  C  D
- 9  A  B  C  D
- 10  A  B  C  D

### Explanations

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>1. D</b>  | Three rules must all be right: a comma after the speaker tag, a capital on the first quoted word, and the period <b>INSIDE</b> the closing quotation mark. A misses the comma; B misses the capital; C puts the period outside.                        |
| <b>2. A</b>  | Comma after the tag, capital on the first quoted word, and the exclamation mark goes <b>INSIDE</b> the closing quote. B misses the comma; C puts the exclamation mark outside; D forgets the capital.  |
| <b>3. B</b>  | Always capitalize the first word <b>INSIDE</b> the quotation marks: "We should go now." The comma and period are already placed correctly.   |
| <b>4. C</b>  | When the speaker tag follows the quotation, the comma replaces the period and goes <b>INSIDE</b> the closing quotation mark. 'Mom' is correctly capitalized because it is used in place of her name.   |
| <b>5. B</b>  | The question mark goes <b>INSIDE</b> the closing quote. The speaker tag 'asked' stays lowercase because the sentence is still going. A wrongly capitalizes 'Asked'; C puts the ? outside; D forgets to capitalize the first quoted word.               |
| <b>6. D</b>  | Comma after the tag, capital on the first quoted word, and the period goes <b>INSIDE</b> the closing quotation mark. A misses the comma after 'said'; B forgets the capital; C puts the period outside.  |
| <b>7. A</b>  | When a speaker tag follows the quotation, the comma replaces the period and goes <b>INSIDE</b> the closing quote. B puts the comma outside; C puts the comma after 'said'; D drops a comma in the middle of the quotation.                             |
| <b>8. C</b>  | Exclamation mark <b>INSIDE</b> the closing quote, capital on the first quoted word, and the tag word 'shouted' stays lowercase. A puts the ! outside; B wrongly capitalizes 'Shouted'; D forgets the capital on 'It'.                                  |
| <b>9. B</b>  | When a speaker tag <b>INTERRUPTS</b> a quotation, the second half continues the same sentence — keep 'be' lowercase. A wrongly capitalizes 'Be'; C drops the comma inside the first half of the quote; D wrongly capitalizes 'She' in the speaker tag. |
| <b>10. D</b> | Capital on first quoted word, question mark <b>INSIDE</b> the closing quote, and 'asked' stays lowercase because the sentence is still going. A puts the ? outside; B misses the capital; C wrongly capitalizes 'Asked'.                               |



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