

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

1. D	Three rules must all be right: a comma after the speaker tag, a capital on the first quoted word, and the period INSIDE the closing quotation mark. A misses the comma; B misses the capital; C puts the period outside.
2. A	Comma after the tag, capital on the first quoted word, and the exclamation mark goes INSIDE the closing quote. B misses the comma; C puts the exclamation mark outside; D forgets the capital.
3. B	Always capitalize the first word INSIDE the quotation marks: "We should go now." The comma and period are already placed correctly.
4. C	When the speaker tag follows the quotation, the comma replaces the period and goes INSIDE the closing quotation mark. 'Mom' is correctly capitalized because it is used in place of her name.
5. B	The question mark goes INSIDE 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.
6. D	Comma after the tag, capital on the first quoted word, and the period goes INSIDE the closing quotation mark. A misses the comma after 'said'; B forgets the capital; C puts the period outside.
7. A	When a speaker tag follows the quotation, the comma replaces the period and goes INSIDE the closing quote. B puts the comma outside; C puts the comma after 'said'; D drops a comma in the middle of the quotation.
8. C	Exclamation mark INSIDE 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'.
9. B	When a speaker tag INTERRUPTS 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.
10. D	Capital on first quoted word, question mark INSIDE 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'.

