

Who Said What?

When using speech, you normally add a **reporting clause** to let the reader know who is speaking. This can come before or after the speech. For example:

Reporting
Clause

Rachel said, "My favourite food is pizza."

"My favourite food is pizza," said Rachel.

Reporting
Clause

If the reporting clause is **before** the speech, place a comma to separate it from the speech. However, if the reporting clause comes **after** the speech, use a full stop to show it's the end of the sentence.

Complete the sentences below by adding all the correct punctuation in the space provided.

1. What time will they arrive asked Sarah
2. Jack said My favourite colour is blue
3. The dragon sighed I'm tired of everyone running away from me
4. Off with her head shouted the Queen of Hearts
5. The frog declared Kiss me and I'll turn into a prince
6. Little pig, let me come in pleaded the big, bad wolf

Challenge: Rewrite the following sentence with the correct punctuation and capital letters.

the little boy said can I have hot chocolate before bed please

Split Speech 1

Sometimes the reporting clause can be placed in the middle of a character's speech. For example:

"I'm very late!" declared the White Rabbit. "I have an important date!"

"I need," thought Dad, "a new tie to go with my shirt."

When this happens, you place inverted commas around both parts of the speech, not the whole section of text. Also, you must add a full stop or a comma after the reporting clause.

Read each pair of sentences below and then tick which one is correct.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. "What time is it?" said John. "I want to go home!" | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| "What time is it? said John. I want to go home!" | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. "When I grow up, declared Susan, I want to be a policewoman." | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| "When I grow up," declared Susan, "I want to be a policewoman." | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. "I don't want a bath, sighed Ben. I'm not dirty." | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| "I don't want a bath," sighed Ben. "I'm not dirty." | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. "I like cake," said Mia. "It's my favourite food." | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| "I like cake, said Mia. It's my favourite food." | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. "I got a certificate, said Ivy. I swam a full length." | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| "I got a certificate," said Ivy. "I swam a full length." | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. "My name's Jake," said the boy. What's yours?" | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| "My name's Jake," said the boy. "What's yours?" | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. We're here," declared the alien. "We've landed on Earth." | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| "We're here," declared the alien. "We've landed on Earth." | <input type="checkbox"/> |

* Please see Parent Guided to Inverted Commas at the end of the booklet for a full explanation of when to use a full stop or a comma.

Split Speech 2

The following sentences below are missing punctuation. Write each sentence out again with all the correct punctuation – including inverted commas and capital letters.

Remember: Always place either a comma or a full stop after the reporting clause in the middle of speech.

1. a slipper cried the prince I need to find who it belongs to

2. i need thought the wizard eye of newt to finish the spell

3. robert said the teacher please read the next part of the text

4. eat the apple whispered the witch to Snow White it'll make you feel better

5. i'll get the ladder said the firefighter then we can get the cat out of the tree

6. that looks sore said the nurse I'll put a plaster on it to make it better
