

Punctuation

dialogue

Dialogue punctuation

“”
,

“”

Quotes surround the spoken words

For example...

"I can't believe the dance is tonight," sighed Emma.

"I forgot to study for the math test," whispered Alex.

Slowly, Ms. Rodriguez asked, "Did anyone complete the reading homework?"

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Periods change to commas when the dialogue tag is after the dialogue

Wait, what's a dialogue tag?

A dialogue tag (or speaker tag) shows who is speaking and how they are speaking in a piece of dialogue

“I can’t wait for summer,” whispered Sarah.
Mr. Chen asked, “Does anyone know the answer?”

Now for those period -> comma examples...

"This cafeteria pizza tastes like cardboard," Maya grumbled.

"Clean your room first," his mother interrupted.

Through tears, Emma whispered, "My hamster died this morning."

(notice where the dialogue tag is for this one!)

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Keep ? and ! inside the quotes if they are part of what's being spoken

For example...

"Where are you going?" asked Maria.

"Get out of my room!" shouted Marcus.

"Have you seen my new gaming setup?" Ben asked excitedly.

New paragraph

For each speaker, start a new paragraph

For example...

"Let's get pizza," suggested Tom.

"I'd rather have sushi," replied Mai.

Emma begged her mom, "Can we please stop for ice cream?"

"Please, Mom?" added her brother Jake.

Let's practice!

"I love that movie." she exclaimed.

"Can I borrow your pencil?" asked James "I lost mine during lunch"

"What time is practice today asked Maria?"

"I hate pineapple on pizza." Aaron said. "Me too" replied Alex.

"Look out there's a bee"! yelled Marcus. "I'm allergic!" screamed Taylor "Someone help"