

Dialogue

Rules for Dialogue

1. Place quotation marks around the words that are directly quoted by another person or written work.

2. Separate the quote from the rest of the sentence with commas.

If the quote comes at the beginning of a sentence, use a comma instead of a period inside the quotation marks.

3. If the quote has a question mark or an exclamation point, put it in place of the separating comma.

If the quote comes at the end of a sentence, place a comma before the opening quotation marks, and a period inside the ending quotation marks.

4. When you divide a quote, both parts are enclosed in quotation marks. The first word of the second part is NOT capitalized UNLESS it begins a new sentence.

5. When writing dialogue, begin a new paragraph whenever a different character begins speaking.