

UNIT 9

Direct Speech

When we write down the exact words someone has spoken, we call this **direct speech**.

We use **inverted commas** to mark the beginning and end of what the person said. These are **inverted commas**. “ ”

Here are two ways of writing this down as **direct speech**. Notice the use of a **comma** in both sentences.

The old woman said, “**This is for you.**”

“**This is for you,**” the old woman said.



Practice

Copy these sentences. Put the inverted commas in the correct places.

1. Wait here, the teacher said.
2. The boy shouted, Catch the ball.
3. Please let me go, begged the thief.
4. The old lady said, Don't worry. I won't hurt you.
5. I'm going to get an ice cream, the small girl squealed excitedly.
6. Cut down that tree, commanded the woodcutter.
7. I'm lost. Which way is it to Ipswich? enquired the motorist.
8. James asked, What time is it?
9. The house is on fire! Get out of here fast! shouted Jenna.
10. I'm hungry. It must be nearly home time, whispered Anna.

Making sure

Sometimes the speaker's name comes in the middle of the direct speech. Copy these sentences. Put in the inverted commas.

1. Help! screamed Emma. I'm drowning!
2. Sit down, said the teacher, and get on with your work.
3. Can I be of assistance? the shopkeeper asked. Is there anything I can show you?
4. Look at this picture! exclaimed Francis. It's really lovely!
5. Quick! Pass the ball! shouted Lee. No one is marking me!
6. I can't come out, explained Indira. I've got too much homework.
7. I dropped my ring somewhere, explained Ann, but I can't seem to find it.
8. I'll meet you in town, Mrs Turner said, outside the supermarket.
9. You're early, said the waiter. Your table is not ready yet.
10. It's no use crying, snapped Nina's mum. You will only make things worse.

Practise your punctuation

Write these conversations as sentences. The first one has been done for you.

1. Samir: I'm bored. What shall we do?
Emma: Let's go to the park.
"I'm bored," said Samir. "What shall we do?"
"Let's go to the park," said Emma.
2. Holly: I like these jeans best. Can I have them?
Mum: No, you can't! I'm not spending all that money on a pair of jeans!
3. Liam: I'm having a new computer game for my birthday.
Kelly: Are you? I'd like to try it.
4. Charlie: Are you in the play? I'm going to be the dragon.
Zoe: I don't know yet. I'd like to be the queen.

