

SPaG Exercises: Punctuating Speech
Objective 1: To use speech marks correctly

Set A

Insert the missing **speech marks (inverted commas)** into the sentences below. The first one has been done for you.

1. "Help!" shouted the shark, who was stuck on the beach.
2. If I don't get back in the water, complained the shark, I'll be late for my guitar lesson!
3. Don't worry, called some passing crabs.
4. We'll help you if you promise not to eat us, said the crabs.
5. I don't want to eat crabs! cried the shark. I just want to go to my guitar lesson.
6. Don't you need fingers to play the guitar? muttered the crabs.
7. You can play guitar with fins too, replied the shark.
8. Ok then, said the crabs, we'll help you back into the water.
9. One, two, three, go! said the crabs as they threw the shark back into the sea.
10. Why are you so late? demanded the shark's guitar teacher.
11. Sorry, apologised the shark, I was stuck on the beach.
12. Well don't get stuck on the beach next time! shouted the guitar teacher, who was an electric eel.

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Set B

Insert the missing **speech marks (inverted commas)** in the sentences below. Also look out for some **missing exclamation marks** at the end of speech. The first one has been done for you.

1. "Wow!" said the princess. "You obviously spend more time on your hair than I do, Sir Preenalot!"
2. Get down shouted the captain as the aliens started firing into the loading bay.
3. The warlock turned and waved his wand. Alacazam he yelled, as the knight ducked under the table.
4. We add the marshmallow and grated turnip, explained Mum, then stir them into the cake mix.
5. We have to stay absolutely silent, whispered Barry, as vampires have excellent hearing.
6. Mum shouted, Stop but the runaway toaster carried on dancing around the kitchen.
7. When you get to the end of the rope bridge, instructed the explorer, you must carefully cross over the canyon.
8. Although they look cute and cuddly, warned the zookeeper, tiger cubs are very dangerous!
9. The king proclaimed, Arise, Sir Billy, guardian of the dragon-gate, and he tapped Billy on each shoulder with his long sword.
10. Surprise yelled all of Navdeep's friends, as they jumped out from behind the sofa.
11. I'm sure he's cheating, muttered the lion, I should have played with the tiger, not the cheetah!
12. Fire yelled the pirate captain. Boom! went the cannons in response.

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Set C

Insert the missing **speech punctuation (inverted commas plus some commas, exclamation marks and question marks)** into the sentence below.

The first one is done for you.

1. "I must go far from here," said Sapheem, gazing out over the hills.
2. But Daddy, why must you Eliza grabbed hold of Sapheem's long cloak as she spoke.
3. Sapheem scooped his daughter up into his great arms. I must go to find my brother; he is in great danger he explained.
4. Before he went away he gave me this stone continued Sapheem, and he told me that if he was ever in great danger, it would begin to cry.
5. My goodness exclaimed Eliza, it *is* crying! Sure enough the stone was dripping with tears and all the while was making a moaning sound. Every now and again it said, Oh no, despairingly, or simply repeated, No, no, no, no... again and again.
6. So you see I must go Sapheem proclaimed. But with even greater determination, his daughter wailed, I won't let you go alone! I will come with you!
7. You can't come with me he replied, smiling, because you are only a child.
8. You can't stop me Eliza was smiling now, even as tears were running down her face. If you try and leave me, I will follow you, and if I get lost or drowned in the river, then so be it!
9. Poor Sapheem didn't know what to say, but his daughter pressed on You won't notice I'm there Daddy. I'll carry your bow and do everything you tell me, I promise!
10. Sapheem's worried face cracked and became one big smile. You're as crazy as your mother was he laughed.
11. You mean, you are letting me come asked Eliza excitedly.
12. What other choice have you left me? Sapheem shook his head. You must do everything I tell you, he warned. Oh I will, Eliza assured him. I'll be much better than usual, she added, nodding her head very earnestly.