

## Writing “Speech” into Your Writing!

When you want to indicate that someone is speaking in your writing, there are special ways to punctuate what they say. Consider these the “rules” of writing dialogue!

**Rule #1:** Always start a new paragraph when someone is speaking in your writing, even if it is only one line.

“I always start a new paragraph,” said the student.

“Very good,” replied the teacher.

**Rule #2:** Always use quotation marks at the beginning and at the end of what is being spoken/quoted.

“Make sure you remember your quotation marks,” said Miss Morales.

**Rule #3:** Always put the punctuation mark BEFORE the last quotation mark. ONLY use a period if what is being said is the end of the sentence. For example:

“The dog went over there,” said John. **John is the last word in the sentence. The period goes after John. A comma goes before the end quotation mark.**

“Give me the bone.” John grabbed for the treat. **Bone is the last word in the statement. The period goes after bone and before the end quotation mark. John grabbed for the treat is a separate statement; therefore, a separate sentence.**

### Practice

On your own piece of paper, re-write the following pieces of dialogue correctly using the rules above.

1. My dog, Nana, just had puppies said Amber
2. That’s wonderful news exclaimed Caitlin How many did she have? Six replied Amber
3. Look, I have photos of them on my phone. Amber pulled out her iPhone and handed it to Caitlin
4. They’re so cute Caitlin squealed
5. The black and white one is my favorite said Amber My mom is letting me keep her. I’m going to call her Oreo. That name is perfect Caitlin gave the phone back to Amber
6. I’ve always wanted a dog Caitlin said with a sigh
7. Amber thought for a moment. Why don’t you ask your parents if you could have one of Nana’s puppies? I’m sure my mom won’t mind giving one to you
8. You think so asked Caitlin, hopefully. Sure! Amber smiled.
9. Amber let Caitlin look at the photos again. Caitlin’s hands were shaking, she was so excited. I don’t know which one to pick she said, excitedly
10. Amber laughed Why don’t you ask permission first? Good idea Caitlin agreed.