

## Conventions Rules for Dialogue

Rules	Examples*
<p>1. Within the dialogue, place the appropriate punctuation mark—question mark, exclamation point, comma, period—inside the second quotation mark.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Marshall asked, "Where is my burgundy sweater?"</i></li> <li>• <i>"This room is an utter mess!" his mom cried.</i></li> <li>• <i>"You seem unable to fold your clothes and put them away," Marshall's mother stated.</i></li> <li>• <i>The son shrugged and said, "I'll clean it up tomorrow."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Well," his mom continued, "I've surely heard that before."</i></li> </ul>	
<p>2. When dialogue is interrupted with a tag (<i>he said, she said</i>), place a comma and quotation mark before and after the tag. Do not capitalize the second part of the quotation when it's a continuation of a complete sentence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>"Please," he said in defense, "this room isn't half as cluttered as my friends' rooms."</i></li> <li>• <i>"Who cares," his mom teased, "since this is where you live?"</i></li> </ul>	
<p>3. Begin a new paragraph each time the speaker changes, even if the dialogue is short.</p> <p><i>"Dad, please let me have a pet dog?" whined Kimmie.</i></p> <p><i>"Well, Kimmie," replied her father, "animals require attention. You'd have to walk him every day."</i></p> <p><i>"I know."</i></p> <p><i>"Plus, clean up after a pet."</i></p> <p><i>"I will."</i></p>	
<p>4. Some dialogue sentences do not have tags attached to them.</p> <p><i>After Kimmie pleaded for a pet, she approached her mother hoping for a better outcome. Her mom was peacefully sipping coffee and reading the paper, but Kimmie didn't care and interrupted anyway. "I wish Dad would let me have a dog!"</i></p> <p><i>Startled, Kimmie's mother was annoyed and tired of this repeated conversation begging for a pet. "Your father has made his position perfectly clear." With that, she returned to her coffee and newspaper.</i></p>	
<p>5. When an author writes a lot of dialogue that becomes multiple paragraphs, the quotation marks appear only at the beginning of the paragraphs and the end of the last one.</p> <p><i>Roger hurriedly recited a fairytale to his daughter, but confused most of the characters. Rocking her gently, he began the somewhat incorrect rendition confusing one tale with another, "Cinderella sadly lived with an evil stepmother because her father met an unfortunate end. She was made to sweep, scrub, wipe, and clean the house from morning until late at night.</i></p> <p><i>"Eventually the wicked stepmother tired of Cinderella and moved her high up in a tower. She had exceedingly long hair and would toss it through the window for someone to use as a rope.</i></p> <p><i>"To her rescue, a wolf strolled by and saw the trapped beauty. He found a rope ladder and hoisted a little girl in a red cape up it so she could set Cinderella free.</i></p> <p><i>"Once she could escape the tower, she ran into little dwarfs who helped her dress in the finest of gowns. The tiny men escorted her to the palace ball where the prince spotted Cinderella and asked for her hand in marriage.</i></p> <p><i>"The two lived happily ever after."</i></p>	

\*Find passages with dialogue from a text that follows each rule and cite the page number or numbers.

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