

Year 4 - English

Activity 7

---

To punctuate direct  
speech

# My story problem

The problem includes conversations so you need to know how to use inverted commas correctly! This is what we are learning today 😊

---

All afternoon, Alek paced up and down, speculating what he should wish for. In the end, his ancient father came in, almost bent double with the weight of his years. "Father, father. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek.

"I'd wish for my eyesight for I have been blind these past ten years." Of course, his father was right! If he could see, his father might help with sowing the seeds and reaping the harvest.

But then, Alek's mother came in. "Mother, mother. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek.

"I'd wish for gold. Why, we are so poor that we will either starve or freeze to death!" Of course, his mother was right too! There was never enough to eat and the pinch of winter was dreadful!

Finally, Alek's wife came in. "Wife, wife. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek. "I'd wish for a baby to bring joy into our lives." Of course, his wife was right too! But then, so was his mother... and so was his father! Alek did not know what to wish for.

“ ”

*Inverted Commas*

---

# Inverted Commas

---

- Inverted commas are also known as speech marks.
- They are used to show when someone is speaking.
- Although it may look complicated, by following just a few simple rules you can become an expert at punctuating direct speech.

# Rules for Punctuating Direct Speech

---

1. Place “ ” around the words which are spoken.
2. Use a capital letter at the start of a speech sentence (even if it is in the middle of another sentence).
3. Before you close your inverted commas use a comma, question mark or exclamation mark to separate what was said from the speaker.
4. If a new person speaks, start a new line.

# Punctuating Direct Speech

---

*What would I need to change?*

*did you eat the last doughnut Hannah asked her little brother. no I had carrot sticks for my snack replied Ben innocently. then where questioned Hannah did the sugar all around your mouth come from. smiling mischievously, Ben responded I'm not sure, but it definitely wasn't from your doughnut*

# Punctuating Direct Speech

Remember: New speaker, new line.

---

“Did you eat the last doughnut?” Hannah asked her little brother.

“No, I had carrot sticks for my snack,” replied Ben innocently.

“Then where,” questioned Hannah, “did the sugar all around your mouth come from?”

Smiling mischievously, Ben responded, “I’m not sure, but it definitely wasn’t from your doughnut!”

# Your activity

Short burst write - Use your comic strip from Activity 6 to write the problem of your story 😊 Carefully, use inverted commas correctly.

---

All afternoon, Alek paced up and down, speculating what he should wish for. In the end, his ancient father came in, almost bent double with the weight of his years. "Father, father. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek.

"I'd wish for my eyesight for I have been blind these past ten years." Of course, his father was right! If he could see, his father might help with sowing the seeds and reaping the harvest.

But then, Alek's mother came in. "Mother, mother. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek.

"I'd wish for gold. Why, we are so poor that we will either starve or freeze to death!" Of course, his mother was right too! There was never enough to eat and the pinch of winter was dreadful!

Finally, Alek's wife came in. "Wife, wife. If you had but one wish, what would it be?" asked Alek. "I'd wish for a baby to bring joy into our lives." Of course, his wife was right too! But then, so was his mother... and so was his father! Alek did not know what to wish for.