

## Punctuating Dialogue

When you write dialogue, be sure to punctuate it correctly so that your readers can see who is talking and where a line of dialogue begins or ends. The rules for using quotation marks, commas, and end marks of punctuation are listed below.

Use quotation marks before and after a dialogue. Place a period inside closing quotation marks.

*"Peter and Esteban are joining us."*

Place a comma inside the closing quotation marks when the attribution (e.g. *he said*) follows the quotation.

*"Let's go," he said.*

*He said, "Come on, it'll be fun."*

Use quotation marks around each part of a divided quotation. The attribution should end with a full stop unless the quotation is a sentence that has been divided in two.

*"I'm not sure," she said. "It sounds suspicious."*

Place a question mark or an exclamation point inside the quotation marks when it is part of the quotation.

*"When will we be back?" she asked.*

*"Hooray!" said Pablo.*

Start a new line when you move from one speaker to another.

*"How close are we?" Ray asked.*

*"I think it's about seven miles to the top," replied Iris.*

## Practice Punctuating Dialogue

Revise each sentence below, adding quotation marks and other punctuation where necessary.

1. I couldn't wait to get here said Esteban.

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2. Wouldn't it be wonderful watch the sunset Peter asked.

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3. I'd love that said Gilda but we forgot to bring flashlights

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4. Maybe you forgot to bring a flashlight said Carol. I never go hiking without one.

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5. Hooray cheered Gilda. Does that mean we can stay?

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6. Maybe we should ask Harry said Ray. He's the one with two backpacks.

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7. Oh right said Harry. You know that the race was a tie.

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8. Did someone say it was a tie?

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9. Ray, how can you say that? You were a mile behind me!

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10. Tan said I'm starving! Let's eat first and argue later, okay?

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