

There are different patterns of direct speech.

If we quote within direct speech, we repeat the exact words and use quotation marks ("") to indicate the direct speech

- 1) The direct speech comes first, followed by narration.

"She was going to do her homework but she forgot," said Jack.

The first word being spoken begins with a capital letter.
There is a comma before the final quotation marks, not a full stop.
The full stop comes at the end of the entire sentence.

- 2) The narration is first, followed by the direct speech.

Tom asked, "Did you see my phone on the bus?"

There is a comma before the quotation marks and the words being spoken.
The first word of the words being spoken begins with a capital letter.
The final punctuation mark comes before the quotation marks.

- 3) Direct speech is broken up by narration.

"He thought," yelled Robert, "he was going to get away with not doing any work!"

The narration begins with a capital letter
There is a comma before the end of the quotation marks.
There is a comma after narration.
As this is a continuation of the words being spoken, a capital letter is not needed here.
The final punctuation mark comes before the end of the quotation marks.

ACTIVITY

Re-write punctuating the sentence correctly. Do not change the order of the words in the sentences.

1. Please hand in your work said the class captain.

2. Do you come here often he asked.

3. I shall miss you when you have gone whispered James.

4. When is the term ending asked the nurse.

5. What do you want from here asked Patrick

6. I saw you take the sweets said the store man.

7. Juma said Holidays is time to relax.