

Lesson Topic: Punctuating Quotations

Objective

Students will be able to punctuate quotations in common sentence structures.

Lesson Outline

1. Objective
2. Introduction: Place punctuation in sentences with quotes
3. Teacher Model: Punctuate a sentence with an interrupted quote
4. Individual Practice: Add a quote to a given sentence
5. Introduction: Integrate partial quotes to form a sentence
6. Individual Practice: Punctuate a partial-sentence quote
7. Introduction: Use punctuation when citing sources
8. Individual Practice: Punctuate titles and citations
9. Individual Practice: Write an original sentence using a quotation
10. Wrap-Up

Optional Follow-up Activity:

[Follow Up Lesson 1: Punctuating Quotations Proofreader](#)

Common Core Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.2.B

Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.

Prerequisites

Students can write complete sentences.

Students use correct punctuation and capitalization in sentences without quotations.

Slide 1/10

By the end of the day, I will be able to:

- Write a sentence with a quotation using correct punctuation and capitalization.

Objective

Introduce the objective of the lesson.

Say: Please read the objective for today's class.

Slide 2/10

1. She said, "Hello."
2. "Whatever," he replied.
3. "Why," she asked, "must you be this way?"

Introduction

Discuss the placement of commas and end punctuation in the model sentences.

Say: On your screen there are three sentences that include quotes. What do you notice about the punctuation in the first sentence?

Anticipated Student Responses:

- There is a comma before the first quotation mark.
- The period is inside the quotation marks.

Say: Good! If a sentence begins with "she said," or similar words, we always place a comma right after the word "said." In this sentence, the quote comes at the end. Since the sentence ends with the quote, the final period goes inside the quotation marks.

Say: Now let's look at the second sentence. What is different about this sentence?

Anticipated Student Responses:

- There is a comma inside the quotation mark.
- "He replied" comes at the end of the sentence.

Say: Right! In this sentence, "he replied" comes after the quote. In that case, the period at the end of the quote becomes a comma. That comma stays inside the quotation marks. If the quotation ended in a question mark or an exclamation point, it would still go inside the quotation marks.

Say: Now we have the last sentence. What do you notice about that one?

Anticipated Student Responses:

- There is a comma inside the quotation marks after the word "why."
- There is a comma after the word "asked."
- The question mark is inside the quotation marks.

Say: Good! This time, we have a comma after the word why. This comma comes right before the sentence is interrupted by “she asked.” It is always inside the quotation marks.

Say: Then, we have a comma after “she asked.” This comma shows that the rest of the quote is coming. It stays outside of the quotation marks, stuck to “she asked.”

Say: The last part of this quote comes at the end of the sentence, just like in the first sentence. Once again, the ending punctuation goes inside the quotation marks.

Say: One more question. Did you notice that in the first sentence, the letter H is capitalized, even though it’s not the first word in the sentence? But in number three, the M in “must” is not. Why?

Anticipated Student Response

1. “Must” doesn’t begin the sentence. It continues the same sentence.

Say: Excellent. If you interrupt a quoted sentence to say “he said,” then you don’t capitalize the first letter when the quoted sentence continues.

Slide 3/10: Interactive Slide

“why” he asked “do you like cats”



Teacher Models Response

Teacher Model

Model punctuating a sentence with a quote

Say: Let’s apply the rules we just learned. Watch as I correct this sentence.

In your Model your Answer box, type: “why” he asked “do you like cats”

Say: The first thing I will check is capitalization. What words need to be capitalized?

Anticipated Student Response:

- Why

Say: That’s right. I’m going to capitalize “Why” because it’s the beginning of the quote. Notice, I’m not capitalizing “do.” “Do” is in the middle of the quote. It stays lowercase.

In your Model your Answer box, capitalize "Why"

Say: Now let's check for commas. Where should I place my commas?

Anticipated Student Responses:

- After "why" inside the quotation marks
- After "asked" outside the quotation marks

Say: Correct. My first comma should go after "why," because the quote is being interrupted. This comma always goes inside the quotation mark. My second comma goes after "asked." This comma introduces the rest of the quote. It's part of the sentence, not the quote, so it goes outside of the quotation marks.

In your Model your Answer box, type "Why," he asked, "do you like cats"

Say: The last thing to check is end punctuation. How will we punctuate the end of this sentence?

Anticipated student responses:

- A question mark


Say: Remember that this quote is a question, even if the sentence is not. The punctuation goes inside of the quotation marks. Here's our completed sentence.

In your Model your Answer box, type: "Why," he asked, "do you like cats?"

Slide 4/10: Interactive Slide

Add the quote to the sentence:

She asked him.
"who are you"

 *Students Input Sentences*

Individual Practice

Ask the students to combine the sentences

Say: Okay, now you're going to try this on your own. Combine the quote and the other sentence. Remember, you can combine these sentences in different ways.

Discussion

Select 2-3 correct responses and 2-3 incorrect responses to display and discuss.

Ask the following questions:

- Did the student use a question mark?
- Is the punctuation placed correctly?
- Is the capitalization correct?

If necessary, flag students for further instruction.

Slide 5/10

Dickens writes that Mr. Bumble's "heart was waterproof."

Introduction

Discuss integrating partial quotes to form a complete sentence.

Say: Let's look at a different way to use quotations. Look at the sentence on your screen. It's different from the examples we've seen so far.

Say: What makes this example different?

Anticipated student responses:

- There is no comma before the quote.
- The quote doesn't start with a capital letter.
- There is no "he said."

Say: Yes! In this example, the writer is only quoting *part* of a sentence. Sometimes you want to quote only the important part of a long sentence.

Say: When you use these quotes, you don't need to say "he said." You also don't need a comma before the quote. The quoted piece blends in to form a complete sentence, so it does not need to be capitalized.

Slide 6/10: Interactive Slide

Combine the quote and introduction in one sentence:

Introduction: Antony calls Brutus

Partial quotation: "the noblest Roman of them all"

Individual Practice

Ask students to punctuate a partial-sentence quote.

Say: Now you've been given a short introduction, and you have to combine it with a partial quote.



Students Input Sentences

Discussion

Select 1-2 correct responses and 2-3 incorrect responses to display and discuss.

Ask the following questions:

- Should there be a comma after Brutus?
- Should the T in "the" be capitalized?
- Is the period placed inside the question marks?

Slide 7/10

1. In "Seeing Red," the narrator reports, "Smith told Jones, 'You're a liar!'"
2. The novel begins with the words, "Call me Ishmael" (Melville 1).

Introduction

Explain how to use punctuation to cite sources

Say: Here are few last facts about quotations and quotation marks. These rules are important for essays.

Say: Let's look at part one. When you write the title of a short work (poem, article, short story, etc.), put it in quotation marks. (For the titles of longer works, such as novels, movies, and plays, use italics instead of quotation marks.) Notice that there's a quote inside the longer quote. We use single-quotes for the quote on the inside.

Say: Let's look at part two. When you quote a source, name the source in parentheses. There's no period inside the quotation marks. Instead, the final period comes after the citation.

Slide 8/10

Punctuate the sentence:

In the short story Cathedral the narrator says "I wasn't enthusiastic about his visit" (Carver 1)



Students Input Sentences

Individual Practice

Ask students to punctuate a sentence with a title and citation.

Say: There's a sentence on your screen, and I want you to punctuate it. Remember what I said about where to put the period.

Discussion

Select 1-2 correct responses and 2-3 incorrect responses to display and discuss.

Correct student responses:

- In the short story "Cathedral" the narrator says, "I wasn't enthusiastic about his visit" (Carver 1).
- In the short story "Cathedral," the narrator says, "I wasn't enthusiastic about his visit" (Carver 1).

Questions for discussion:

- Did the student put quotation marks around the title, "Cathedral"?
- Did the student correctly place the comma after "says"?
- Did the student place the period after the parentheses?

Slide 9/10: Interactive Slide

Write an original sentence using a quote.



Students Input Sentences

Individual Practice

Ask students to write an original sentence using a quote.

Say: Let's practice one more time. Write an original sentence using a quote in the box on your screen.

Discussion

Select 2-3 correct responses and 2-3 incorrect responses to display and discuss.

Ask the following questions:

- Are the correct punctuation marks used?
- Is the punctuation placed correctly?

Slide 10/10

Today I learned:

- Punctuation goes inside quotation marks.
- Put a comma after “he said,” to introduce a quote.
- The beginning of a quote is capitalized.

Wrap-Up

Review what the students learned today.

Say: Great work everyone! Let’s review what you learned today.

Ask students to read the objectives.

You can assign an independent practice activity that students can either complete now or later.

You can also pull aside the flagged students for small group instruction.

Say: Follow the instructions on your screen. If your screen says to begin the next activity, go ahead and begin it now. If your screen says to wait for instructions, please wait at your desk quietly for your next steps.