

# Quotation Marks

Quotation marks are used to set off dialogue, show direct quotes, and indicate the titles of short works. This will show you the main uses for quotation marks.

## Direct Quotes

A direct quote is a word, sentence, or passage that is copied straight from the source exactly as it is. Put these words between quotation marks.  
Ex: Sir Francis Bacon stated, "Knowledge is power."

## Showing Dialogue

Dialogue is when two or more characters in a text exchange spoken words. Put each person's lines in quotation marks and use signal phrases.  
Ex: "Do you know where the cafeteria is?" asked the student?  
"Yes, it is in the next building," the professor answered.

## Titles of Short Works

Titles of short works like poems, short stories, songs, episodes, and articles should be enclosed in quotation marks. Longer works should be italicized.  
Ex: Langston Hughes wrote a poem titled, "A Dream Deferred."

## Using Single Quotation Marks

Use single quotation marks when you have a quotation embedded within another quotation.  
Ex: "According to an article about anxiety, Psychologist Dr. Anita Guerra stated that many children and teens experience anxiety, and 'it generally peaks between 25-45 years of age.' After that, anxiety may decrease for some people."

## Combining With Other Punctuation

Keep periods and commas within quotation marks. Put all other punctuation, such as colons, semicolons, question marks, and exclamation marks outside of the quotation marks, unless they are part of the original quotation.  
Ex: President John F. Kennedy is known for the following statement: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."