

Inverted Commas

There are two places where inverted commas are needed when writing direct speech:

“What’s the matter, Dina?” said Sid.

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You need to **open** your inverted commas with a “ (66) before the first word which is being spoken.

You need to **close** your inverted commas with a ” (99) after the last word **which is being spoken**.

Imagine that inverted commas are like hands;
They hold within them **only** the words which are being spoken.

Back



“What’s the matter, Dina?” said Sid.



Punctuation

There are two places where other forms of punctuation are needed when writing direct speech:

“What’s the matter, Dina?” said Sid.

You need to end the speaking with:

- a comma
- a question mark, if it is a question.
- an exclamation mark, if it is an exclamation.

You will need to finish your sentence with a full stop after the reporting clause.

Examples of other punctuation in direct speech are:

“How exciting it is!” exclaimed Sarah.

“I don’t know what to do,” said Sayeed.

Reporting Clauses

After the speech itself, a reporting clause gives a little bit of information about **who is speaking** and **how it was said**.

"What's the matter, Dina?" **said Sid**.

Reporting Clauses

In this case, Sid is speaking.

If Sid said it in a different way,
you could change 'said' to...



"What's the matter,
Dina?" **asked Sid**.

"What's the matter,
Dina?" **whispered Sid**.

"What's the matter,
Dina?" **uttered Sid**.

"What's the matter,
Dina?" **shouted Sid**.