

Boost Free Lessons - Year 9 English

Lesson 7: Quotation Marks and Quoting Evidence

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Worked Example 1

Punctuate this line of dialogue correctly.

we are not finished said Ms Rahim quietly

1. Speech marks surround the **exact** words spoken, and nothing else.
2. The spoken words begin with a capital: *We are not finished.*
3. The punctuation before *said* is a comma, and it sits **inside** the speech marks.
4. *Said Ms Rahim quietly* stays outside, and the sentence ends with a full stop.

“We are not finished,” said Ms Rahim quietly.

Worked Example 2

Embed this quotation into a sentence of your own.

Quotation: a room that had stopped being hers

1. When quoting evidence in an essay, do not drop the quotation in as a separate sentence.
2. Build your own sentence around it so the grammar flows through the quotation marks.
3. Keep the quotation short. A few words carry more weight than a whole line.
4. Follow it with your own explanation, because the quotation never explains itself.

Model: The writer describes “a room that had stopped being hers”, which shows the loss has already happened before the scene begins.

Remember: Speech marks surround the **exact** words. Punctuation goes **inside** them for dialogue. When quoting evidence, keep it **short**, build it into your own sentence, and always explain it.



Question 1: Punctuate the dialogue, or embed the quotation as instructed.

1. stop shouted Dev

2. i already told you she said we are leaving

3. are you sure asked the nurse

4. that was unexpected he admitted

5. put it down said the guard firmly

6. Embed the quotation *a thin grey light* into a sentence.

7. Embed the quotation *nobody answered* into a sentence.

8. Embed the quotation *too late by then* into a sentence.



Question 2: Read the passage below, then answer the questions.

"We should go back." said Aisha.

"not yet" Tom replied.

"It will be dark within the hour," she said.

1. Find one punctuation error in the dialogue and correct it.

2. Should a new speaker start on a new line? Explain why.

3. Rewrite the second line of dialogue correctly.

4. Why should a quotation used as evidence be kept short?

5. What should always follow a quotation in an analytical paragraph?



Question 3: Answer the following questions.

1. Write a three line conversation, punctuated correctly.

2. Write a sentence that embeds a short quotation and then explains it.

3. Explain the difference between quoting speech and quoting evidence.





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Answers and Model Responses: Quotation Marks and Quoting Evidence**Question 1**

1. "Stop!" shouted Dev.
2. "I already told you," she said, "we are leaving."
3. "Are you sure?" asked the nurse.
4. "That was unexpected," he admitted.
5. "Put it down," said the guard firmly.
6. Model: The opening describes "a thin grey light", which sets a cold and unwelcoming mood.
7. Model: The fact that "nobody answered" suggests the house has been empty for some time.
8. Model: The narrator admits it was "too late by then", which shows he understood only afterwards.

Question 2

1. The first line has a full stop inside the speech marks. It should be a comma.
2. Yes. A new line for each speaker makes it clear who is talking without naming them every time.
3. "Not yet," Tom replied.
4. A short quotation keeps the focus on your analysis. Long quotations take up space without proving anything extra.
5. Your own explanation of what it shows. A quotation never explains itself.

Question 3

1. Model response:
"You are late again," said Nina.
"The bus never came," Omar replied.
"It never does," she said.
2. Model response: The writer calls the hall "strange and large", which suggests the family no longer belongs in a house they have already emptied.
3. Quoting speech reproduces what a character says, punctuated with a comma and a new line for each speaker. Quoting evidence takes a few words from a text and builds them into your own sentence to support a point.

