

Rules for Formatting Dialogue

1. A speaker's exact words must be surrounded by quotation marks.

Example:

"I love flowers," said Jesse.

Dialogue Tag



2. Commas, periods, and question marks are placed inside the closing quotation marks.

Example:

"Do you like chips?" asked Molly.

"Not really, but I love pretzels!" Jason replied.

3. Use a comma to introduce dialogue after a dialogue tag.

Example:

Tyler replied, "Blue is my favorite color."

Dialogue Tag



4. If dialogue is split or separated, use quotation marks to surround each part that is spoken.

Example:

"Yes," Bobby explained, "I love cheese pizza."

5. if a quotation is not split or separated, do not close the quotation marks until the speaker is finished. This could sometimes involve numerous sentences.

Example:

"Please write your name on a paper before you begin. Once you finish, bring your paper to the front of the room and place it on my desk," said the teacher.