Spotting spoken words: answers

What your child practised: finding direct speech, the exact words someone says (Year 3 English).

Page 1 · Warm up

This puzzle is really tricky, said Leo.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. The first column should hold only the character's words.

Page 2 · A. Ring and underline

1. I can see a rainbow, said Ava.
2. Is it lunchtime yet? asked Sam.
3. My cat is called Pepper, said Ella.
4. Leo shouted, Come back here!
5. Dad whispered, The baby is asleep.

Page 3 · B. Exact words or not?

1 **exact words** · 2 **tells us** · 3 **tells us**
4 **exact words** · 5 **tells us**

Page 3 · C. Pictures to sentences

My kite is stuck in the tree! said Sam.
Who wants a biscuit? asked Ella.

"shouted Sam" or "said Ella" are fine too. Inverted commas aren't needed yet: they come in Chapter 2.

Challenge: No. Ava only says **We're lost**. The words **said Ava** tell us who is speaking: Ava wouldn't say "said Ava" about herself.

Watch out for

- **Counting "said Mia" as spoken words.** Ask your child to say the words as the character would, then ask, "Did Mia say 'said Mia'?"
- **Mixing up exact words with a sentence that reports them.** "Mia said that she was hungry" tells us about Mia. Ask, "What exact words did Mia use?" (I'm hungry.) Clues: **that** or **if**, and "she" instead of "I".
- **Speaker first.** When a sentence starts "Leo shouted," the spoken words come after it.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Exact words, please:** ask "What exactly did your teacher say?" and help your child repeat it word for word.
- **Bubble spotting:** in a comic or picture book, ask which words are in the bubbles and who says them.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Meet 66 and 99, shows how writers mark spoken words with inverted commas.