Name _____ Date _____

Spotting spoken words

Find the exact words a character says in a sentence.

1 Learn



The exact words a character says are called **direct speech**. Let's be word detectives and find them!



Ava

Can I feed the ducks?

→

In a story, it looks like this:

Can I feed the ducks? asked Ava.

yellow = the words Ava says ring = who said it

How to find the spoken words

I love this song, sang Mia.

1. Look for a talking word, like **said**, **asked** or **sang**. Who is talking? Mia
2. Ask: what exact words came out of Mia's mouth? I love this song
3. Check: Mia doesn't say "sang Mia". Those words tell us **who** spoke.

Flip's tip: read the words aloud in the character's voice. Nobody ever says their own "said Mia"!

Warm up: underline the exact words Leo says.

This puzzle is really tricky, said Leo.

Grown-ups: in stories, direct speech sits inside inverted commas (speech marks). Your child meets those in Chapter 2, so the sentences here have none yet. Read the spoken words in a character voice and the rest in your normal voice.

Name _____ Date _____

2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Character voices

You need: a story book where characters talk to each other, and a pencil.

1. Choose a page where characters talk. The grown-up reads it in a normal voice.
2. Read it again. This time the child reads **only the words a character says**, in a funny voice for that character. The grown-up reads everything else.
3. Stop if anyone reads "said…" in a character voice. Ask: did the character really say that?
4. Pick 3 lines of speech and write them below: the exact words, and who said them.

	The exact words they said	Who said them?
1		
2		
3		

Grown-ups: swap roles for a page: you do the voices, and let your child catch you out if you read "she shouted" in a character voice. Then point to the marks round the spoken words in the book and ask, "What do you think these are for?"

3 Practise

A. Draw a **ring** round who is speaking. **Underline** the exact words they say.

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.

Careful: in sentences 4 and 5 the speaker comes first.

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Name _____ Date _____

B. Is it the **exact words**, or does the sentence just **tell us what was said**? Tick one.

Sentence	Exact words	Tells us what was said
I'm hungry, said Mia.		
Mia said that she was hungry.		
Leo asked if he could play.		
Can I play too? asked Leo.		
Gran told us to wash our hands.		

C. Write a sentence for each picture: the exact words in the bubble, then who said them.



Sam: **My kite is stuck in the tree!**

_____

_____



Ella: **Who wants a biscuit?**

_____

_____

Challenge

Ben reads: **We're lost, said Ava.** He says, "The words Ava says are **We're lost, said Ava.**" Is he right? What would you tell him?

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ find the exact words someone says in a sentence
- ☐ leave out words like "said Mia", because they tell us who spoke
- ☐ tell exact words from a sentence that just tells us what was said