Name _____ Date _____

Writing 66 and 99

Special marks show where spoken words start and stop.

1 Learn



Writers put **inverted commas** round the exact words someone says. Lots of people call them **speech marks**. Same marks, two names!



A **comma** sits down on the line.

→



Turn it **upside down** and lift it up high: **opening** inverted commas look like **66**.



Closing inverted commas also float up high. They look like **99**.

"Let's go to the park," said Dad.

66 opens. It goes just before the first word Dad says: **Let's**.

99 closes. It goes just after the last of Dad's words, once he has finished.

Flip's tip: when you count, 6 comes before 9. So **66 comes first** and **99 comes last**. Both float up high, level with the top of tall letters like **l** and **d**.

Warm up: draw a **ring** round the opening 66 marks. Draw a **box** round the closing 99 marks.

"I can hear thunder," said Leo.

Grown-ups: "inverted" means turned upside down. Schools use both names, inverted commas and speech marks, and many teach "66 and 99" for the shapes. Single marks (' ') are also correct; this sheet uses double ones.

Name _____ Date _____

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



66 and 99 hunt

You need: a story book where characters talk, a pencil and a scrap of paper.

1. Find a page where characters talk. Point to each mark and say **“66!”** or **“99!”**
2. Count the 66s and the 99s and write them in the table. Try two more pages. Are the numbers the same?
3. The grown-up writes a sentence of speech with a mistake (a flipped mark or a missing 99). Can the child fix it?

Book page	How many 66?	How many 99?	The same?

Grown-ups: the numbers usually match, because every 66 needs a 99. If not, look together: some books use single marks (‘ ’), and long speech can run over two paragraphs.

3 Practise

A. Trace the dotted marks, then write your own in the empty boxes.

Opening 66 66 66 66

Closing 99 99 99 99

B. Write **66** or **99** marks in each box.

☐ Please pass the bread, ☐ said Gran.

☐ My shoes are muddy, ☐ said Ella.

☐ Where is the cat? ☐ asked Sam.

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C. Are the inverted commas right? Put a **tick** or a **cross**.

Sentence	Tick or cross
“I like your hat,” said Ava.	
”Where is my bag?“ asked Leo.	
“Look at the moon! shouted Ella.	
“Can we go swimming?” asked Sam.	
”My turn!” said Ben.	

Look closely at the shapes: is each one 66 or 99? And is it in the right place?

D. Write these sentences again. Add the inverted commas.

That is my football, said Leo.

Is it snowing? asked Mia.

Challenge

Mia wrote: **“I found a shell, said Mia.** Her friend says something is missing. What has Mia forgotten, and where should it go?

I can…

Tick when you can.

- ☐ say why speech marks are also called inverted commas
- ☐ write opening inverted commas like 66 and closing ones like 99
- ☐ always close the speech with 99 when the words finish