Name _____ Date _____

Catching spoken words

Inverted commas go round the spoken words, and nothing else.

1 Learn



Inverted commas work like a net. They catch **all** the words someone says. Words like **asked Ben** stay outside the net!

Inside the net: every word Ben says

"Is that your bike?"

Outside: who said it

asked Ben.

How to catch the words: Time to go home, said Mum.

1. Find the words Mum says: **Time to go home**.
2. Write **66** just before the first spoken word, **Time**.
3. Write **99** just after the last spoken word and its comma: **home,**
4. Check: read only the words inside the marks. Is that exactly what Mum said?

"Time to go home," said Mum.

Flip's tip: say the words inside the marks in the character's voice. Nothing should be missing, and nothing extra (like "said Mum") should sneak in.

Warm up: tick the sentence where the net catches the right words.

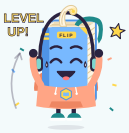
☐ "Can I help?" asked Ella. ☐ "Can I help? asked Ella."

Grown-ups: the most common slip is putting the marks round the whole sentence, including "said Mum". Ask, "Did Mum say 'said Mum'?" Words like "said Mum", and the comma after a speaker (Leo said, …), are already on the sheet: your child adds only the marks.

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2 Try it together

a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Spoon catch

You need: two teaspoons (or two pencils) and a pencil to write with.

1. The child lays one spoon just before the first spoken word below, and one just after the last spoken word.
2. The grown-up reads only the words between the spoons, in a character voice. Is it exactly what was said?
3. If it's right, the child writes the 66 and 99 where the spoons are.
4. Make up your own sentence at the end. The grown-up places the spoons with a sneaky mistake for the child to spot.

I'm so sleepy, yawned Max.

Who ate my sandwich? asked Grandpa.

We won the match! cheered Ava.

Our sentence: _____

Grown-ups: the spoons make the marks into something to move and check, so mistakes are quick to fix. If a spoon lands after "yawned Max", read the words aloud with it in and let your child hear it.

3 Practise

A. Draw a **ring** round the one sentence in each box with the inverted commas in the right place.

a "Sit down, said Mum."
b "Sit down," said Mum.
c "Sit" down, said Mum.

a "I love" it! said Leo.
b "I love it! said Leo."
c "I love it!" said Leo.

a "Is it hot?" asked Sam.
b "Is it hot? asked Sam."
c "Is it" hot? asked Sam.

Pick one sentence you **didn't** ring. Tell a grown-up what went wrong: are there too many words inside the marks, or too few?

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B. Write the inverted commas round the words each person says.

1. This cake is yummy, said Ella.
2. Can I stroke your dog? asked Mia.
3. Look out! shouted Sam.
4. I can't find my glasses, said Grandma.
5. Leo said, I'm ready to go.
6. Dad asked, Who wants pancakes?

C. Write what each child says as a sentence. Use inverted commas.



Ava

It's raining!

_____

_____



Ben

Where is my umbrella?

_____

_____

Challenge

Leo wrote: **"We need more milk, said Dad."** Is he right? Write it the right way.

_____

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ put inverted commas round all the words someone says
- ☐ leave words like "said Ben" outside the inverted commas
- ☐ check by reading only the words inside the marks