



The Punctuation Game

QUOTING EDITION

DIRECT QUOTES AND PUNCTUATION MARKS

Direct quotes are used when we incorporate another person's exact words into our writing. We use punctuation marks to help the reader differentiate between the author's words and our own and to prevent plagiarism.



HOW TO PUNCTUATE

Place a **comma** after the speech verb that introduces a direct quote.

Noam Chomsky (2016) **stated**, "Communication is not a yes-or-no but rather a more-or-less affair."

Several writers argue that grad school is a unique experience: "Graduate school, especially at the doctoral level, is unlike the previous schooling in many ways" (Casanave 17).

Place a **colon** when there is no explanatory word before a direct quote.

Enclose the direct quote with **quotation marks**.

According to J.R.R. Tolkein, "Not all those who wander are lost."

Jan H. Brunvand states, "some individuals [**who retell urban legends**] make a point of learning every rumor or tale" (78).

Place **brackets** when adding additional words in a quote.

Include an **ellipsis** when removing parts of a quote.

Jan H. Brunvand notes that "some individuals make a point of learning every rumor or tale . . . and in a short time a lively exchange of detail occurs" (78).

Victor Frankenstein's obsession starts when he says, "The world was to me a secret which I desired to divine" (35).

Place the **period** after the parenthesis.

Place the **period** before the parenthesis in a block quotation (a quote with more than four lines).

In his book *On Language*, Chomsky argues, Language can be used to transmit information, but it also serves many other purposes: to establish relations among people, to express or clarify thought, for play, for creative mental activity, to gain understanding, and so on. In my opinion, there is no reason to accord privileged status to one or the other of these modes. (88)

Suzette Haden Elgin is known for her novel *Native Tongue* (1984) and the short story "For the Sake of Grace" (1969).

Italicize the titles of long works such as novels, and use **quotation marks** for short works such as poems.



When the direct quote includes a **question mark** or **exclamation point**, they are placed within the quotation marks.

READY?
START GAME ▶

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