

Re-write this script as a conversation in a story, setting it out and punctuating it according to the rules for direct speech.

1. You should not add any extra dialogue, but you should add things like *said Sarah*, or *he replied*, after each line of dialogue.

Remember the direct speech rules:

- The words that are actually spoken should be inside inverted commas (“or “”).
- Every time a new speaker says something, start a new paragraph.
- Remember to include all punctuation (comma, full stop, exclamation or question mark) **inside** the closing inverted commas.
- If direct speech comes straight after the information about who is speaking, use a comma: *Sophie said, ‘I’m coming.’*
- If direct speech is broken up by information about who is speaking, you need a comma, question or exclamation mark to end the first direct speech, and a full stop or comma before the next: *‘I’m starving!’ he said. ‘Let’s eat.’*

Sarah: Have you seen how much English homework Mrs Whiteboard has given us?

James: Yes, it’s terrible. She doesn’t usually give us as much.

Sarah: I think it’s because we have exams coming up soon?

James: Oh no! When do they start?

Sarah: After half term, I think.

James: I’d better start revising. I really want to hit my end of year target!

2. Swap your direct speech with a partner; check their work very carefully and add in any corrections. Don’t forget to add a constructive comment at the end.

Optional extension activities:

- Continue the conversation and ask a partner to change it into speech in a story.
- Underline the verbs that indicate someone is speaking (e.g. said, replied etc.). Use a thesaurus to replace them with more interesting verbs.
- Write your own conversation between Mrs Whiteboard and another teacher about James and Sarah. Use more interesting verbs from a thesaurus.

- Design a poster for year 6 children to help them remember the rules of setting out and punctuating direct speech.