

Punctuating quoted speech

Punctuating speech is easy once you've got the hang of it. The activities below will help you remember the rules.

When punctuating quoted speech, we use:

- quotation marks around the spoken words
- a capital letter for the first word of the sentence
- present tense for the quoted speech but not for the tag, e.g. 'she asked'
- question marks, exclamation marks or a comma within the quotation mark.

Here's an example: 'I love going to the zoo,' Ying informed the class.

PART A

Put a tick or cross in the box to indicate if each of the sentences is punctuated correctly.

1. 'I ride my bike to school every day,' Mya stated cheerily.
2. Pritam stated proudly, swimming is my favourite activity.
3. Mum panted, 'We're going to be late!'
4. There's no time! the bell has gone, Marissa shouted.

PART B

Punctuate the following sentences:

1. I love visiting the zoo Sarah said.
2. I whispered I'm scared of the lion.
3. How much higher can you swing she asked.
4. Grandpa shouted look at me.
5. How many animals live in the zoo Lachlan asked.
6. Hurry to and get changed the curator urged.

PART C

Imagine a deer came face to face with a crocodile. Write a brief paragraph describing the encounter. Include dialogue between the two animals. Remember to use the correct punctuation.
