

Punctuating Speech

Task 1

- 1 Highlight or colour the words that are spoken in yellow.
- 2 Circle or colour all of the opening and closing the speech marks in red.
- 3 Circle or colour the punctuation before the speech mark closes in blue.
- 4 Underline the capital letter at the beginning of the speech in green.
- 5 Circle or colour, in orange, the comma that comes before the speech marks, when the speaker is reported before the speech.

"But what am I to do?" said Alice.

"Anything you like," said the Footman, and began whistling.

"Oh, there's no use in talking to him," said Alice desperately, "he's perfectly silly!" And she opened the door and went in.

The door led right into a large kitchen, which was full of smoke from one end to the other. The Duchess was sitting on a three-legged stool in the middle, nursing a baby; the cook was leaning over the fire, stirring a large cauldron which seemed to be full of soup.

"There's certainly too much pepper in that soup!" Alice said to herself, as well as she could for sneezing.

The only things in the kitchen that did not sneeze, were the cook, and a large cat which was sitting on the hearth and grinning from ear to ear. "Please would you tell me," said Alice, a little timidly, for she was not quite sure whether it was good manners for her to speak first, "why your cat grins like that?"

"It's a Cheshire cat," said the Duchess, "and that's why."

"I didn't know that Cheshire cats always grinned; in fact, I didn't know that cats could grin."

"They all can," said the Duchess, "and most of 'em do."

"I don't know of any that do," Alice said very politely, feeling quite pleased to have got into a conversation.

"You don't know much," said the Duchess; "and that's a fact."

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Task 2

Copy each of the following sentences. Add the missing punctuation and capitalise if necessary.

- 1 there are men in the garden she shouted I can see them from my window
- 2 is it true cried Sam have we found it
- 3 the story of the Forbidden Forest has intrigued generations of people explained the guide
- 4 there you go the waiter said, as he handed the girl her menu I hope you enjoy your meal
- 5 I don't understand Bill said what's this all about
- 6 please can we stay a bit longer Jane pleaded
- 7 hello said Amy I'm sorry I'm late
- 8 can I have some ice cream please Andy asked
- 9 the little boy put up his hand and he said excitedly I know
- 10 you can have said mum what you see in front of you

Task 3

Find an example of a conversation between at least two people from a story book. Copy out the dialogue (about 5 - 10 lines).

Remember to start a new line every time a new person speaks.

Task 4

What could these two sisters be talking about?

Write a dialogue of their conversation.

