

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.

"Who are you?" said the Caterpillar.

This was not an encouraging opening for a conversation. Alice replied, rather shyly, "I-I hardly know, sir, just at present - at least I know who I was when I got up this morning, but I think I must have been changed several times since then."

"What do you mean by that?" said the Caterpillar sternly. "Explain yourself!"

"I can't explain myself, I'm afraid, sir," said Alice, "because I'm not myself, you see."

"I don't see," said the Caterpillar.

"I'm afraid I can't put it more clearly," Alice replied very politely, "for I can't understand it myself to begin with, and being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing."

"It isn't," said the Caterpillar.

"Well, perhaps you haven't found it so yet," said Alice, "but when you have to turn into a chrysalis—you will some day, you know—and then after that into a butterfly, I should think you'll feel it a little strange, won't you?"

"Not a bit," said the Caterpillar.

"Well, perhaps your feelings may be different," said Alice, "all I know is, it would feel very strange to me."

"You!" said the Caterpillar contemptuously. "Who are you?"

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Task 2

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

- 1 did you hear that asked Sam
- 2 be careful called Mary the ice is slippery
- 3 there's a lovely view from up here said Anne
- 4 would you like to buy some eggs asked Simon hopefully
- 5 let me in she shrieked its raining out here
- 6 I'm done he shouted I've done my chores
- 7 the holiday was fun grandma said I enjoyed it very much
- 8 if you need help please sit down said the secretary he will see you shortly
- 9 who knows the answer to this question said the teacher
- 10 you can eat dessert after dinner said mum

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 children be talking about?

Write a dialogue of their conversation.

