

Direct Speech

Part B

Direct speech is where the exact words someone has spoken are reproduced in a sentence using inverted commas.

“Charlie ducked behind the wall, hardly daring to breathe. Had he really just seen Roman soldiers?” the story teller said.

List the rules for punctuating direct speech below and give examples for each one.

Challenge!

Use your imagination to write a conversation between the three characters on the front cover, punctuating the direct speech correctly.

Direct Speech Answers

Part A

1. *Tilda nursed her hand and glared at the stubborn framework. This felt like stalemate.*

“Told you it was broken,” Charlie said triumphantly. “The only way you’ll ever get through is by kicking the door down.” Tilda whirled round and snatched a handful of her brother’s T-shirt.

“Charlie Hacker, you’re a genius!”

“Eh?”

“Gimme one of your trainers.”

“What? No! They won’t fit you.”

“I’m not going to wear it, silly. I’m going to use it to get through the door.”

2. *Children’s own responses, including correctly punctuated direct speech.*

Part B

- *Put inverted commas around what is said.*
- *Begin what is said with a capital letter.*
- *Include the correct punctuation for what is said, inside the inverted commas.*
- *If the reporting clause comes before the speech, use a comma after the reporting clause. If the reporting clause comes after the speech, use a comma instead of a full stop at the end of the speech.*
- *Start a new speaker on a new line.*

Children’s own responses, giving an example for each rule.

Challenge

Children’s own responses, including correctly punctuated direct speech.