

Direct Speech

When we write down someone's exact words, we call it *direct speech*. We use *inverted commas (speech marks)* to mark the beginning and end of what the person says. Whenever a *new person starts speaking* we start a new line.

This could be written down in three different ways using *direct speech*. Notice the *punctuation* in each line.

Pattern 1: Mrs Brown said, "Your father has gone away for a few days, so I hope you'll be good."

Pattern 2: "Your father has gone away for a few days, so I hope you'll be good," said Mrs Brown.

Pattern 3: "Your father has gone away for a few days," said Mrs Brown, "so I hope you'll be good."

Practice

1. Rewrite this conversation using pattern 2.

Peter asked, "Is something the matter?"

Mrs Brown replied, "Don't worry. Everything is fine."

Roberta said, "I hope Dad won't be away too long."

Mrs Brown answered, "He should be back soon."

2. Rewrite this conversation using pattern 1.

"It's time for bed," Mrs Brown said to the children.

"Can't we stay up a bit longer?" Peter begged.

"I'm afraid it's already past your bedtime," Mrs Brown replied with a smile.

"Goodnight, Mum. I'll see you in the morning," Roberta called as she went upstairs.