

## Quotation Marks

### WORK WITH QUOTATION MARKS (“ ”)

Quotation marks (“ ”) identify words you have taken directly from someone else. They tell readers these words are exactly as your source spoke or wrote them.

*“We don’t know a millionth of one percent about anything,” said Thomas Alva Edison.*

*“Toots Shor’s restaurant,” claims Yogi Berra, “is so crowded nobody goes there anymore.”*

**CAUTION:** Don’t put quotation marks around an indirect quotation, which tells what someone said without using his or her exact words.

**Not:** *She said that “she was going to the party.”*

**But:** *She said that she was going to the party.*

**NOTE:** Quotation marks are always used in pairs.

### QUOTATIONS WITHIN QUOTATIONS

Use single quotation marks around a quotation within a quotation.

*Benita said, “I told Julio, ‘Don’t swing on that branch,’ but he ignored me and told me to ‘get lost.’”*

The writer quotes Benita, who is quoting herself and Julio. ‘Don’t swing on that branch’ and ‘get lost’ are quotations within a quotation.

### QUOTATION MARKS WITH OTHER MARKS OF PUNCTUATION

1. Commas and periods appear inside quotation marks.

*When I asked what he wanted, he calmly said, “Money.”*

2. Colons and semicolons appear outside quotation marks.

*“He who hesitates is not only lost but miles away from the nearest exit”; now that’s the kind of line stand – up comics dream about.*

### QUOTATION MARKS AROUND TITLES

Use quotation marks around titles of newspaper, magazine, and [articles](#); poems; short stories; songs; and episodes of TV programs.

*B.R. Jerman’s article, “Browning’s poem “My Last Duchess.”  
The story “Guests of the Nation” is set in Ireland.*

Gershwin's "Summertime" and "I got Rhythm" are classics of American song.

"Who Shot J.R.?" was the most watched episode of Dallas.

Sample Quiz questions:

1. Click on the sentence that is punctuated correctly.
  - a. Robert Frost ends his short but lovely poem "Pasture" with an invitation to the reader: "You come too."
  - b. poem "Pasture" with an invitation to the reader: "You come too".
  - c. Robert Frost ends his short but lovely poem *Pasture* with an invitation to the reader: You come too.

Answer: a. Robert Frost ends his short but lovely poem "Pasture" with an invitation to the reader: "You come too."

2. Click on the sentence that is punctuated correctly.
  - a. Both *Night and Day* and *Stardust* were recorded by Frank Sinatra and Tommy Dorsey Orchestra in the early 1940s.
  - b. Both "Night and Day" and "Stardust" were recorded by Frank Sinatra and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra in the early 1940s.
  - c. Both Night and Day and Stardust were recorded by Frank Sinatra and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra in the early 1940s.

Answer: b. Both "Night and Day" and "Stardust" were recorded by Frank Sinatra and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra in the early 1940s.