

Dialogue Punctuation

Keep the following rules in mind when adding dialogue to a Personal Narrative:

1. All speech needs to be surrounded by quotation marks.

"Go to your cupboard – I mean, your bedroom," he wheezed at Harry.

2. Instead of using a period at the end of the sentence, use a comma when you are going to identify the speaker.

"Las' time I saw you, you was only a baby," said the giant. "Yeh look a lot like yer dad, but yeh've got yer mum's eyes."

(Note: The punctuation goes inside the quotation marks.)

3. If you use a question mark, you don't need to change it to a comma.

"What do they think they're doing, keeping a thing like that locked up in a school?" asked Ron. "If any dog needs exercise, that one does."

4. If you use an exclamation mark, you don't need to change it to a comma. Please, use exclamation marks sparingly.

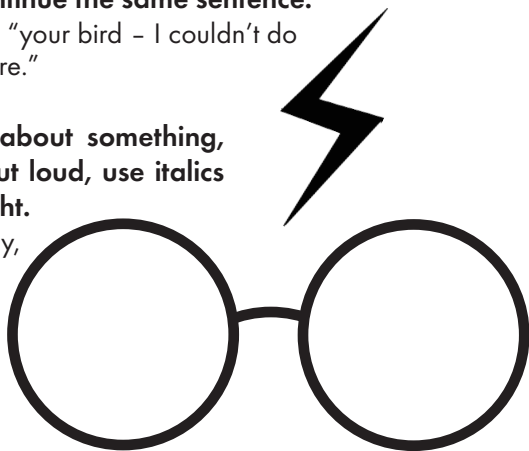
"A stone that makes gold and stops you from ever dying!" said Harry. "No wonder Snape's after it! Anyone would want it."

5. If you have interrupted speech to let the reader know who is speaking, a comma is needed before the break and again after the speaker's name as you continue the same sentence.

"Professor," Harry gasped, "your bird – I couldn't do anything – he just caught fire."

6. If someone is thinking about something, but doesn't say the idea out loud, use italics to note the unspoken thought.

Of course, he thought bitterly, *Uncle Vernon was talking about the stupid dinner party.*



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