Study Guide

Quotations - Editing
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**Quotation Marks - D**Quotation marks are used to enclose a direct quote, to indicate dialogue, or to punctuate certain literary titles. At this level, the students should be able to determine the speaker in a series of quotes. They also need to recognize how to use quotation marks with special words and understand how punctuation changes meaning.

Correct Use of Quotation Marks in Dialogue

 Incorrect: Bindel said, I like to eat spaghetti.
 Correct: Bindel said, "I like to eat spaghetti."

-It is important for students to note that quotation marks are used to distinguish a speaker and conversation.

Here is another example.

 Incorrect: Babette, Geronimo questioned, where is your brother?
 Correct: "Babette," Geronimo questioned, "where is your brother?"
-When edited correctly, it becomes obvious that the speaker is Geronimo and not Babette.

Correct Use of Quotation Marks with Special Words

 Incorrect: We call my oldest brother Junior Dad because he takes care of us each day after school.
 Correct: We call my oldest brother "Junior Dad" because he takes care of us each day after school.
-It is important for students to note that quotation marks surround the entire special word or phrase. For example, "The Big Cheese," "The Head Honcho," "Tiny Tim," etc.

Punctuation that Changes Meaning

 1. "I am scared of riding my bike," Louis Charles said.
 2. "I am scared of riding my bike, Louis," Charles said.
-It is important for students to understand the difference between the two sentences. In sentence 1, Louis Charles is the full name of the speaker. In sentence 2, Charles is speaking to his friend, Louis. The quotation mark in a different place changes the entire sentence's meaning.

**Practice:**

In order for the student to practice using quotation marks correctly, he or she should recognize how quotation marks are used in familiar works. To help the student with this understanding, you may wish to use an excerpt of dialogue from the student's textbook or leisure reading material. Remove the quotation marks from around pieces of dialogue and special words. Ask the student to rewrite the selection of text using the correct punctuation. Below is a sample paragraph to get the student started.

 Mom, I argued, why can't I play golf with all my friends after school?
 Hiram, she answered patiently, you haven't been doing very well in school. You know that you need to pay more attention to the things that matter, like earth science and geometry.
 I paused before answering. My mother would never understand that for me, sports were all I ever dreamed of. I never wanted to do anything else but play golf.
 Hiram, my mother interrupted my thoughts, what are you thinking about?
 How could I tell her and risk breaking her heart?

**Commas: Quotations**A comma is a punctuation mark used to set apart ideas or segments of meaning, dates, addresses, and parts of a letter. At this level, commas are used with quotation marks.

A comma should be used with quotation marks to help the reader identify who is speaking.
-"You know that I hate peanut butter sandwiches," Jontue protested.
(In this example, it is clear that Jontue is the speaker, because we see that his conversation ends or pauses where the comma begins.)

-Mom asked, "What time will you be home from flute practice?"
-Mrs. Simpson declared, "You all did exceptionally well on your math quiz."
-"I wish I had a million dollars," Isoke grumbled.
-"You have to work hard to succeed in life," Angel told his friends.

**Practice:**

It may be helpful to explain the use of commas with quotation marks to the student. Review the rule, and learn how to apply it by having the student rewrite sentences from his or her favorite books or the school textbook with the correct punctuation omitted. Work with the student and help him or her rewrite the sentences by inserting commas as needed. Using the following examples is a good start.

1. Allen asked his mother "Can I go to the store with Tanisha and Helen?"
2. "Trina and Gopi came calling for you earlier" Matilde's mother reported.
3. "Today we will begin a chapter about dinosaurs" Mr. Escalante explained.
4. Yoshi suggested "You should set up a savings account in your own name."
5. Marcus wondered "Whatever happened to my favorite stuffed animal?"