

To support the use of speech marks or inverted commas

Speech marks are tricky, and the children will all be at different levels with this. For some it is enough to recognise where the speech is in the sentence and include speech marks; while others should be aiming for complete accuracy with the punctuation.

## Punctuation Inside Inverted Commas

All commas, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks must also be enclosed by inverted commas.

### For example:

'That grass looks delicious,' said the smallest Billy Goat Gruff.

'Hey, goat!' shouted the troll. 'You are not allowed to cross my bridge.'

'How can we get to the other side?' asked the Biggest Goat Gruff.

**NOT:** 'Get off my bridge !' shouted the troll. ✗



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## Commas

Commas are another important tool to help the reader separate direct speech from the rest of the text.

Where direct speech **precedes** a **verb**, and does not end in a question mark or exclamation mark, **a comma must be used.**

### For example:

'We need to get to the other side,' **moaned** the goats.

'Those goats are always disturbing my sleep,' **muttered** the troll.

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# Commas

Where the direct speech **follows** a **verb**, a comma must be used after the verb to indicate that direct speech is about to begin.

**Note:** in this context, the direct speech must always begin with a capital letter.

## For example:

The smallest Billy Goat Gruff **said**, 'I'll go first.'

The Troll **shouted**, 'Who goes there?'

The biggest Billy Goat Gruff **shouted**, 'Oh no you won't!'

