

Punctuation

” ””

Quotation marks.

Quotation marks in English are ‘...’ or “...”. In direct speech, we enclose what is said within a pair of single or double quotation marks

She said, “Where can we find a nice Indian restaurant?”

Or

She said: ‘Where can we find a nice Indian restaurant?’

When we use direct speech inside direct speech, we use either single quotation marks inside double quotation marks, or double quotation marks inside single quotation marks:

“It was getting really cold,” he said, “and they were saying ‘When can we go back home?’ ”

We also use single quotation marks to draw attention to a word. We can use quotation marks in this way when we want to question the exact meaning of the word:

I am very disappointed by his ‘apology’. I don’t think he meant it at all.

We sometimes use quotation marks to refer to the titles of books, newspapers, magazines, films, songs, poems, videos, CDs, etc:

There’s a special report all about it in ‘The Daily Mail’.