

Speech Punctuation

Warm-Up



Punctuating Speech

Let's have a go at correctly punctuating speech.

Josh:
I'm really struggling to walk.



Matthew:
Don't worry, I'll help you.

If we were punctuating Josh's speech, it would say:



Inverted Commas

There are two places where inverted commas are needed when writing direct speech:

Can you remember what we named our speech marks last year?

“I’m really struggling to walk,” explained Josh.

Inverted commas

Inverted commas

You need to **open** your inverted commas with a “ (66) before the first word which is **being spoken**.

You need to **close** your inverted commas with a ” (99) after the last word which is **being spoken**.

Imagine that inverted commas are like hands; they hold within them **only** the words which are being spoken.

“I’m really struggling to walk,” explained Josh.

Punctuation

There are two places where other forms of punctuation are needed when writing direct speech:

“I’m really struggling to walk,” explained Josh.

You need to end the speaking with **either**:

- A comma
- A question mark, if it is a question
- An exclamation mark, if it is an exclamation

You need to finish your sentence with a full stop after the **reporting clause**.

“How exciting!” exclaimed Sarah.

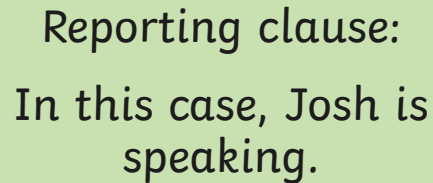
“Is your favourite drink lemonade?” enquired Chad.

“I don’t know what to do,” said Sayeed.

Reporting Clauses

Accompanying the speech is a reporting clause, which gives a little bit of information about **who is speaking** and **how it was said**.

“I’m really struggling to walk,” **explained Josh.**



Reporting clause:
In this case, Josh is speaking.

If Josh said it in a different way, you could change ‘explained’ to...

“I’m really struggling to walk,” **claimed Josh.**

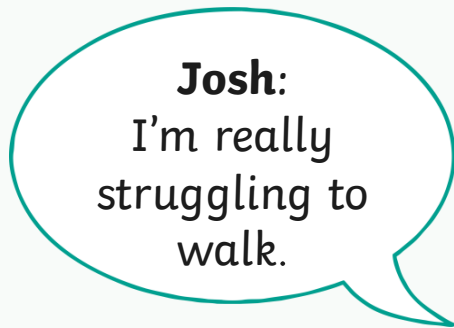
“I’m really struggling to walk,” **disclosed Josh.**

“I’m really struggling to walk,” **whispered Josh.**

“I’m really struggling to walk,” **cried Josh.**

Punctuating Speech

Sometimes, the reporting clause can appear before the speech. The same punctuation rules apply.



If the reporting clause came before the speech, Matthew's reply could read:



Examples of Correctly Punctuated Speech

Below are all examples of correctly punctuated speech.

The conductor bellowed, "Sit down!"

"Can I have ketchup with my chips?" asked Gina.

The referee blew the whistle and shouted, "Time's up!"

"Please stop annoying me!" pleaded Waldek.

"It's all the money I have left," explained Mary.

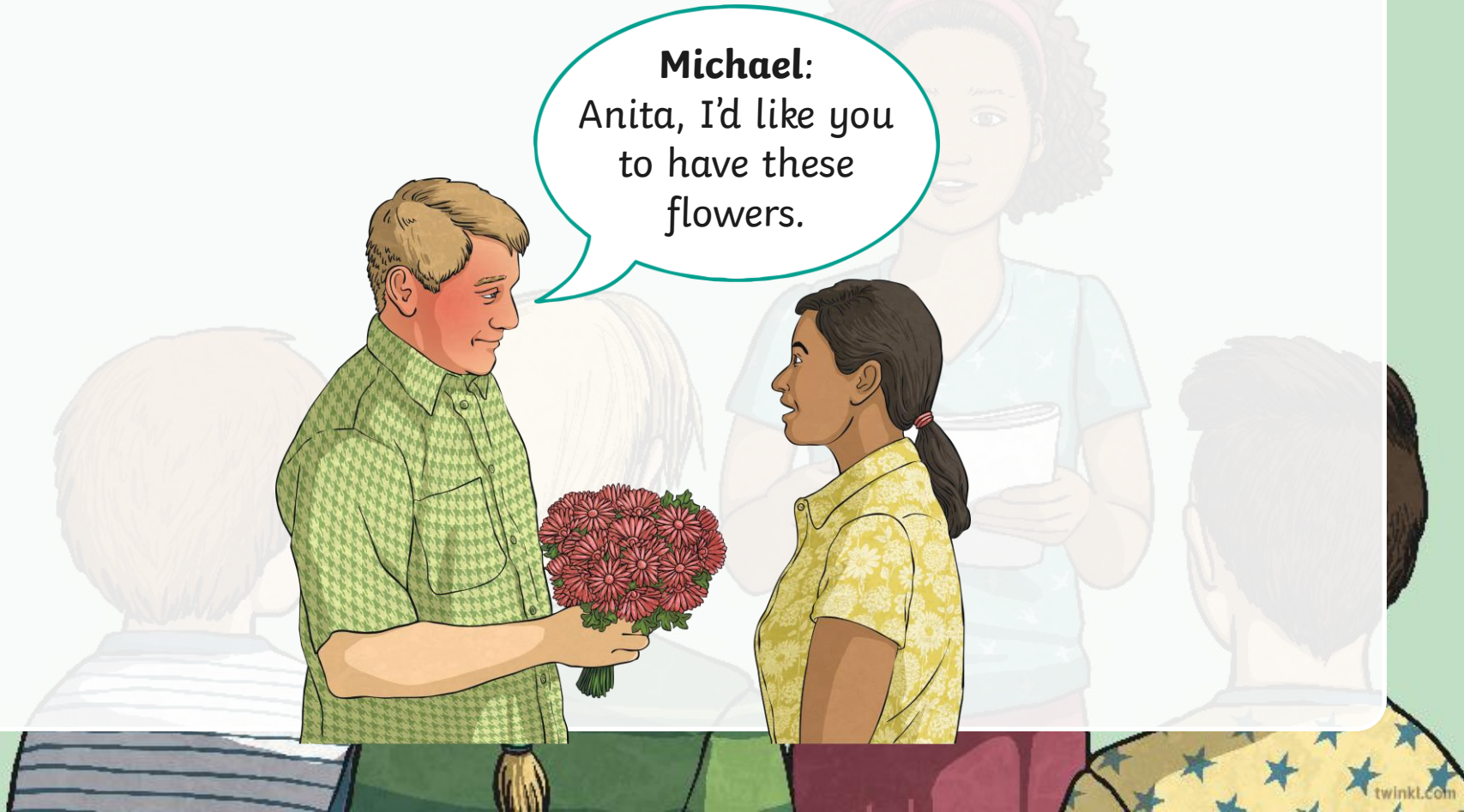
Benjamin yelled, "Over here!"



It's Your Turn...

On a piece of paper, write the speech in the bubble using the correct punctuation.

Michael:
Anita, I'd like you
to have these
flowers.



It's Your Turn...

On a piece of paper, write the speech in the bubble using the correct punctuation.

Sarah:
I'm over here!



It's Your Turn...

On a piece of paper, write the speech in the bubble using the correct punctuation.

Amy:
Hooray! It's the
summer holidays.



It's Your Turn...

On a piece of paper, write the speech in the bubble using the correct punctuation.



Morgan:
Can they see me?

It's Your Turn...

On a piece of paper, write the speech in the bubble using the correct punctuation.

Sofia:
See you next
week.



Task 2: Froggy Freeze Frame

Time two minutes. You have two minutes to write two pieces of speech which could be happening in this picture.



Well done!
Now time for a quick break.

