

These items would be shown on the overhead for a whole class lesson or they could be printed 1 per sheet of paper used with a small group of students.

Beginner Skill Level – Using Quotation Marks in titles

"America the Beautiful"
"The Most Dangerous Game"
Romeo and Juliet
I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow
"Animal Farm"

Continue providing examples of both yes and no items; once several hands are raised, begin calling on those students to identify the example as a yes or a no. Do not provide an explanation until about 2/3 of the class has seen the pattern. Then students explain the rules for quotation marks with titles. You may need to use a variety of textbooks to find other examples or exceptions.

Moderate Skill Level - Quotation marks used in dialogue

"Dr. Miller wants you to take vitamins, Sally," Dad said anxiously. "He said you are seriously deficient in several nutrients."
"Can this be real?"
Had she heard her mother say, "Here's \$500 to shop for new clothes"?
Wow! Carolyn, I can hardly believe this!
Go Bernard; I don't want to see you for a while.
Just try it; you might like eggplant, said Maria.

Continue providing examples until students can think of their own to add to the pattern. They can write their examples on the overhead and tell the class if it is an example of a “yes” or a “no”. Other members, who have figured out the pattern, confirm if the student example is correct. If it is not correct, another student can change the student sample so it fits the pattern. Others add examples until about 2/3 of the class can identify the pattern and list the components of the pattern. List the components on the chalkboard or on chart paper. The components of the pattern are simply the rules for punctuating dialogue, which can be found in many grammar or writing handbooks. If students are already familiar with the general pattern, the teacher can direct their attention to placement of other punctuation marks in relation to the quotation marks.

Advanced Skill Level - Quoting a quotation

“Saturday,” said Tommy, “we are going to sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to JoAnn.”
“Carol, Mrs. Hinkle told us to read ‘The Most Dangerous Game’ for class tomorrow.”
“Sarah, have you read this article in <i>Newsweek Magazine</i>, Unleashing the Power of Bacteria?”
“My favorite quote is, No man is an island.”
“Mrs. Hinkle said her favorite quote is, “We have nothing to fear but fear itself.”