

PARAGRAPHING AND DIRECT SPEECH

SECTION A: PARAGRAPHS

Take a new paragraph if you change:

- The place
- The time
- The speaker
- The character you are writing about
- What you are describing
- The idea that you are discussing
- The action that is happening
- Whenever you start a sentence with the word "suddenly"
- Or if you make any other significant change.

For practice:

Monday was fine and sunny. There wasn't a cloud in the sky and I spent the whole day sunbathing. The next day was rainy and cold and I decided to go to the shops. At Intersport I chose a pair of trainers, a sweatshirt and some tracksuit trousers. When I went to pay the assistant said, "That's two hundred pounds please." "How much?" I gasped. "Two hundred pounds," she repeated. "Oh," I gasped again. I dumped my shopping and ran off. On the bus home I felt really stupid. Why had I come without money? Suddenly, my fairy godmother appeared. "I'll give you three wishes," she said. "Tracksuit trousers, trainers and sweatshirt please," I replied.

SECTION B: DIRECT SPEECH - THE THREE BASIC RULES.

1. Put the speech marks around the actual words the character says:

"I need a doctor."

2. Take a new paragraph when you change who is speaking:

"I need a doctor."

"I'm a doctor."

3. The words that tell the reader who is speaking go in the same paragraph as the words that speaker says:

"I need a doctor," said the woman as she came into Casualty.

Dr Brown rushed to her side. "I'm a doctor," he said.

For practice:

The two of them were on their way to the pictures when the argument broke out. Donna didn't want to see an action film. I hate them she moaned. Well I'm tired of always seeing romances answered Lesley. I don't care replied Donna. I want to see something that makes me feel happy inside. Suddenly Lesley said a very cruel thing. You only want to watch romantic films because there's no romance in your life. You haven't had a snog since we were in first year. That's not true! Yes it is! I had a snog with Graham after the Christmas party last year! No you didn't. You told everyone that you went off with him, but we all saw him at the bus stop on his own at the time when you said he was with you. That made Donna absolutely furious. At least I'm a bit choosy about who I snog. You've kissed so many guys your lips are fraying. Lesley couldn't think of anything to say in reply to this, and stormed off home in a huff.

SECTION C: DIRECT SPEECH - FURTHER RULES

4. Any exclamation marks or question marks stay inside the speech marks.

"I need a doctor!" screamed the woman.

5. If the speaker's sentence should end with a full stop, but the sentence you are writing will carry on, finish the speech with a comma BEFORE the speech marks:

"I'm a doctor," said Dr Brown.

6. If the sentence begins with words which introduce the speech, put a comma AFTER these words and BEFORE the opening of the speech marks.

Dr Brown said, "I'm a doctor."

For practice: Use all six rules to write this passage correctly.

I need a doctor screamed the woman as she rushed into Casualty. I'm a doctor yelled Dr Crown, hurtling down the hospital corridor. What seems to be the problem? I've gone deaf said the woman. I woke up this morning and I wasn't able to hear anything out of my right ear. And she went on it tickles. Oh dear said Dr Brown. That does sound nasty. Let me take a look at it. He led her into a consulting room and shone a bright light in her ear. Hmmm, yes he muttered. Do you have any children madam? I have a little boy, Liam. He's only four. But what has that got to do with my ears? Did you make him have peas for dinner last night? The woman nodded. I did, but I don't see what this has got to do with me going deaf. Keep quite still said Dr Brown. You may feel an odd sensation but it shouldn't hurt. Ow yelled the woman, who certainly appeared to think that it had hurt. Aha! Exclaimed Dr Brown. He showed her the point of a pen lid, on which perched a slightly waxy-looking pea. I think your son got his revenge while you were asleep.