Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:
• Determine the purpose of quotation marks in dialogue.
• Identify quotation marks in dialogue.
• Practice using quotation marks in dialogue.

Preparation

Materials Needed
• Quotation Marks in Dialogue (BLM 9)
• Chart paper and markers
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation
If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text, the practice text (with errors), and the EL practice text (with errors) onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.

1. Focus

Explain Quotation Marks in Dialogue

Say: Quotation marks are used in dialogue. Dialogue is a conversation between people or characters. We place quotation marks in front of and behind the words a person says in a dialogue. The quotation marks separate the words spoken by a person or character from the rest of the text. Let’s see how quotation marks are used in dialogue.

Model Using Quotation Marks in Dialogue

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Read the text aloud to students.

1. “Ready to hike?” she asked as I neared her.
2. I nodded and replied, “Absolutely!”

Modeling Text

After sentence 1. Say: When I read the text aloud, I can hear the pauses that indicate a person is speaking. The quotation marks show me which words are actually the speaker’s and which words are descriptions by the author. The words she asked in the first sentence tell me that the words before them are dialogue. Quotation marks are placed around the question, Ready to hike? The question mark is part of the dialogue, so the second set of quotation marks goes after the question mark.

After sentence 2. Say: In the second sentence, the words “I nodded and replied” signal that another person is about to speak. The word Absolutely is capitalized here because quotations always begin with a capital letter. Quotation marks enclose the word Absolutely, including the exclamation mark. I can see where each person starts speaking and where he or she stops.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Quotation Marks in Dialogue

Display the practice text on chart paper (with errors) or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

Ask students to work with a partner to decide where the quotation marks should go in the practice sentences. (Students do not need to copy the sentences.)

1. “We are going to Jackson, Wyoming,” my mom said.
2. I yelled, “Let’s go!”
3. “I will meet you at the top,” my grandmother replied.

Practice Text

If your class includes English language learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Sentences with Quotation Marks in Dialogue

Invite volunteers to share their results. Discuss their responses. Ask the following questions:

- Where did you place quotation marks?
- How did you know where the quotation marks belonged?
- What phrases helped you find the speaker’s words?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that we need to use quotation marks in dialogue to show when a person or character begins and ends speaking. When you write your personal narrative, you will often need to tell the reader what you or another person said. The quotation marks make dialogue in our personal narratives easier to read and understand.

Encourage students to apply this mini-lesson to their independent writing. If you would like to give students additional practice using quotation marks in dialogue, have them complete BLM 9.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to read aloud their answers to BLM 9. Use students’ answers to provide corrective feedback.

Strategies to Support ELs

**Beginning**

Help beginning ELs understand that quotation marks show words that people say. Say the following sentences one at a time and act them out. Then write the sentences on chart paper and model placing quotation marks around the dialogue in the first sentence. Then ask students where to put quotation marks in the remaining sentences. Invite students to use a colored marker to draw the quotation marks.

- I said, “Get your books out.”
- Tia said, “I like soccer.”
- Darnell said, “Here is a pencil.”

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Have ELs place quotation marks in the practice sentences for beginning ELs.

**All Levels**

If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share this English/Spanish cognate: **dialogue/el dialogo**.