

Punctuating Direct Speech

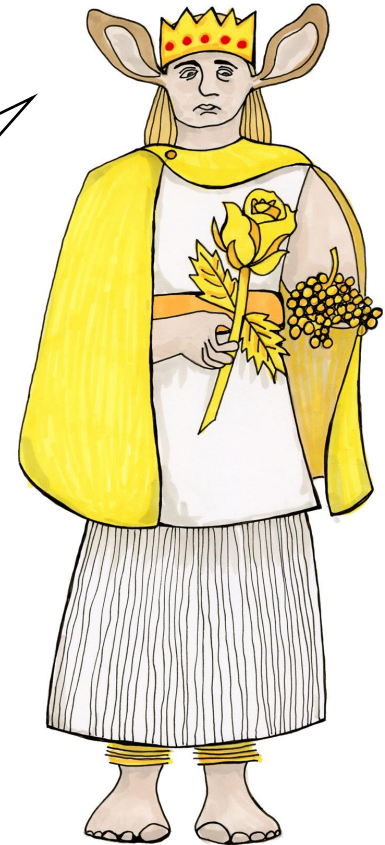
Greek Myths



What do you
remember about
writing speech?



I am too busy
listening to Pan's
amazing music for
that!





Spotting Direct Speech

Look at this example from the story of King Midas.

“There is something wrong with your ears if you think Pan’s music is better than mine.”

“Nothing wrong with my ears,” said foolish king Midas.

“Oh, no? Well we can soon change that!”



When he got home, Midas’s ears were itching... he had brown and pink donkey’s ears.



*Which words are **direct speech**? How do you know?*

Now read this excerpt out loud, using expression.



Punctuating Speech



Speech bubbles can show us what a character is saying.



Pan was better

The words *actually spoken* are called **direct speech**.

“*Pan was better,*” *confirmed King Midas.*

Bubbles take up too much room so we use **speech marks**.

Speech marks work in pairs to hug the **direct speech**.

We report who is speaking using a **reporting clause**.



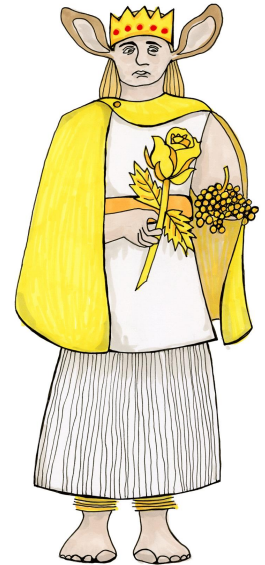
Speech marks are also called *inverted commas*.

Punctuating Speech – capital letters open **direct speech**

Direct speech begins with a capital letter, even if it is in the middle of a sentence.

King Midas said, “You just don’t play as well as Pan.”

Apollo replied, “What is wrong with you?”



It is the beginning of the speaker’s sentence so a capital letter is used.





Punctuating Speech – commas separate clauses

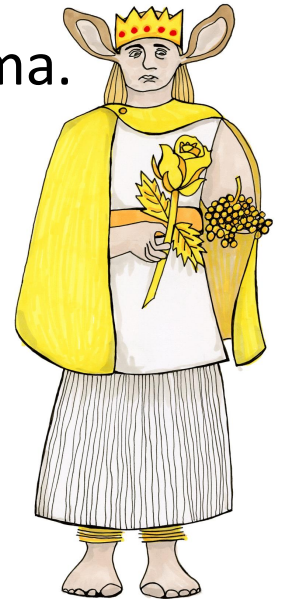
Direct speech and reporting clauses are usually separated by a comma.



"I am so much more musical than Pan," he said.



King Midas sighed, "You are deluded, Apollo!"



The comma is placed at the end of the first clause.

The speech marks follow the comma.

Punctuating Speech – exclamations and questions

If the speech ends in a ! or ? we do not need a comma after the speech.

“Use your ears, Midas!” shouted Apollo.

“What did you say, Apollo?” King Midas teased.



The punctuation is placed inside the speech marks.
The punctuation belongs to the spoken words – they tell you how to say them.

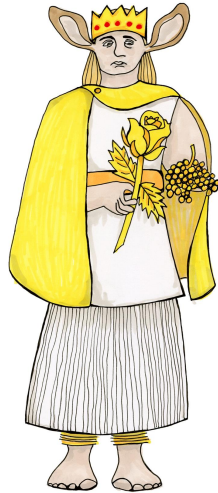
Punctuating Speech – a new line shows a change of speaker



Those ears should
help with your
listening.

My ears look
hideous!

I think they suit you.



“Those ears should help with your hearing,” said Apollo.

“My ears look hideous!” sobbed King Midas.

“I think they suit you,” chuckled Apollo.



We show each
change of speaker by
starting a new line.

This makes it clear
when the speaker
changes.

Punctuating Speech – What are the rules?



I look like a complete idiot

“I look like a complete idiot,” said King Midas.

I am going to need a bigger hat!



Try writing this as punctuated speech.

- Hug the words spoken with speech marks
- Start the speakers' words with a capital letter
- Separate the speech and reporting clause with a comma
- Start a new line to show the speaker has changed



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