**PUNCTUATING CONVERSATION**

Quotation marks began in ancient Greek texts as two curved lines that represented the lips of a person speaking. One curved line was placed at the beginning, as if the writer were saying, “I’m telling you something someone else said.” The other curved line came at the end to say, “I’ve finished writing the words that came out of the other person’s mouth.”

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are placed before the first word of a quote and after the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that follows the last word.**
  + EX: The teacher said, “In this class there will be no talking, chewing, breathing, unnecessary eye movements, or tap dancing.”
* **A quoted remark begins with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ letter: it’s the speaker’s first word.**
  + EX: I questioned, “Are you up on the furniture again, you bad dog?” She was driving me crazy. I hollered, “Get down now!”
* **A quote is separated from the “he said” part or explanatory phrase with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OR a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OR an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but *never* with a period. A period would create two sentences and a full stop.**
  + EX: “I just finished reading I am the Cheese,” she remarked.

“So what did you think of it?” I asked.

“It was excellent!” she effused.

I agreed, “I loved it, too.”

* + - NOTE: The punctuation that follows a quoted remark belongs inside the closing quotation marks. It’s part of the sentence and shows *how* the speaker said what he or she said. Also note that the first word of the explanatory phrase is *not* capitalized when it follows the quote: “Bacon is my favorite snack,” **s**he said.
* **In writing dialogue—\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or more people having a conversation—begin a new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ each time you alternate or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ speakers.**
  + Write your own example here:

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