



# SPaG Starters **Speech Punctuation**

When we write direct speech, we use speech marks.

- At the end of the speech, we put a comma, then close the speech marks, followed by a speech tag such as he said.
- If the speech ends with a question mark or exclamation mark, we don't put a comma after it.
- If we don't include a speech tag, we can finish the speech with a full stop inside the speech marks.



**e.g.**

*"At the end of the lesson, please place your books in a pile at the front of the room," the teacher instructed.*

*"At the end of the lesson, can you please place your books in a pile at the front of the room?" the teacher asked.*

Choose from one of the following activities:

Have a conversation with the person next to you. Each of you must say a sentence, then both write it down in a speech bubble.

Or

Imagine a scenario where two friends are having a conversation or disagreement about something of your choosing. Fill in each of the speech bubbles with what each person says.

**Don't forget to add speech punctuation and a speech tag. Try and challenge yourself when writing the speech tag by using alternatives to the word 'said'.**

