Quotations and Quotation Marks

A direct quotation gives a person’s exact words and is enclosed in quotation marks (“ ”). Direct quotations begin with capital letters and end with proper punctuation. End punctuation is inside the closing quotation marks. Words that tell who is speaking are set off from the quotation by punctuation.

- When the quotation comes last in a sentence, set it off with a comma.
  Jamie asked, “What was the Hindenburg?”

- When the quotation comes first in a sentence, a comma, question mark, or exclamation mark sets off the quotation.
  “It was a dirigible,” replied May. “It was enormous!” she added.

- When the quotation is interrupted by words that tell who is speaking, use two sets of quotation marks. Notice that words telling who is speaking are followed by punctuation. Use a comma if the second part of the quotation does not begin a new sentence.
  “Dirigibles were lighter than air,” he added, “because they were filled with hydrogen.”

- Use end punctuation and a capital letter if the second part of the quotation does begin a new sentence.
  “Isn’t hydrogen flammable?” asked Jamie. “What kept it from exploding?”

Directions Rewrite each sentence. Add quotation marks where they are needed.

1. Are the blimps dirigibles? asked Max.

2. No, they aren’t, explained Vi, because they aren’t rigid.

3. Vi said the framework is like a skeleton

4. fabric covers it she added like skin

Home Activity Your child learned about quotations and quotation marks. With your child, find quotations in a newspaper or magazine article. Have your child highlight the quotation marks and other punctuation and explain why they are used.
Quotations and Quotation Marks

Directions Choose a sentence from the box that supports the ideas in each paragraph. Write the sentence, adding quotation marks and correct punctuation.

A radio announcer moaned over the airwaves Oh, the humanity!

Modern airships are generally known only as flying billboards one expert says.

As airship historian R. D. Layman explains A balloon cannot be piloted in any sense of the word.

1. The hot air balloon and airship differ in important ways. An airship is powered by a motor and propellers, but a balloon is not. An airship’s horizontal path can be controlled, but a balloon’s cannot. A balloon can be raised or lowered by adjusting the propane burner that heats the air inside it. However, it goes wherever the wind takes it.

2. The burning of the Hindenburg on May 6, 1937, is the most famous airship disaster. The spectacular accident was witnessed by many and actually covered on the air. It turned the public away from airships. They watched as the enormous fireball plummeted from the sky and people lost their lives. One cry in particular spoke for the American public.

Directions Do you think airship travel should have been abandoned or continued? On another sheet of paper, write a paragraph to persuade readers that your opinion is correct. Use quotations from The Hindenburg to support your argument. Use quotation marks and punctuation to set off your quotations correctly.

Home Activity Your child learned how to use quotations and quotation marks in writing. With your child, write dialogue for characters in a story about flying. Have your child punctuate the dialogue correctly.
Quotations and Quotation Marks

Directions  Mark the letter of the item that completes each sentence correctly.

1. “I’m going on a hot-air balloon _____ said Sherry.
   A ride”
   B ride.”
   C ride,”
   D ride?”

2. “Wow! That’s so _____ exclaimed Phil.
   A cool”
   B cool!”
   C cool.”
   D cool?”

3. He asked _____ you think I could come too?”
   A earnestly, “Do
   B earnestly “Do
   C earnestly “do
   D earnestly “Do

4. “I’ll ask my _____ Sherry said.
   A dad.”
   B dad,”
   C dad”
   D dad?”

5. “What is it _____ inquired Phil.
   A like,”
   B like.”
   C like?,”
   D like?”

6. She replied _____ like floating on a cloud.”
   A dreamily, “it’s
   B dreamily. “It’s
   C dreamily, “It’s
   D dreamily “It’s

   A toys,” she
   B toys,” She
   C toys” she
   D toys.” She

8. “How do you make it go up and _____ Phil.
   A down? asked
   B down,” asked
   C down?” asked
   D down?”” asked

   A air, explained
   B air,” Explained
   C air” explained
   D air,” explained

10. “More hot air takes you _____ less takes you down.”
    A up,” she said. “and”
    B up,” She said, “And
    C up,” she said, “and
    D up.” she said. “And

Home Activity  Your child prepared for taking tests on quotations and quotation marks. Have your child interview you about your day and write your reply as a quotation, beginning with He/She said and using quotation marks correctly.
Quotations and Quotation Marks

Directions Rewrite each sentence. Add quotation marks where they are needed.

1. Tell us about blimps, requested Sean.

2. What do you want to know? asked the museum guide.

3. Sean asked Do they have a framework inside to give them shape?

4. They do not, replied the guide. They get their shape from the gas inside them.

Directions Write each sentence correctly. Add capital letters, quotation marks, and other punctuation as needed.

5. Blimps are filled with helium he continued

6. how are they used asked Sean

7. the military has used blimps he replied to learn where land mines are located

8. some companies use them for advertising he continued and for aerial views of sports events

Home Activity Your child reviewed quotations and quotation marks. Ask your child to write sentences about the Hindenburg and include dialogue. Remind your child to use quotation marks and other punctuation correctly.