

Quotation Marks

Quotation marks are used to alert readers of specific types of information: quotes, titles, definition, dialogue, and irony.

Quotation marks with direct quotes

Direct quotation involves using someone's exact words into your work.

- King said, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

If you are quoting a complete sentence, the first word of that sentence is capitalized

- The student said, "The test was too hard."

Do not capitalize the first word of the quote if it is fragment of the quote.

- Among other things, John said that "there would be other opportunities" and he did say that he would "think about" another run.

Use quotation marks around a quoted word or phrase that you are using inside your own sentence.

- Some politicians claim that Bush senior's mistake was his famous "read my lips" platform where he promised neither to add nor increase taxes.

Quotation marks to note titles

Place quotation marks around titles of poems, articles, short stories, essays, songs, chapters of books, and episodes of television programs.

- My favorite poem, "I, Too, Sing America," gave me an inexplicable love for the Harlem Renaissance writers.

Quotation marks to note definition

You might use quotation marks around a definition.

- The phrase *mi casa es su casa*, "my house is your house," has lost meaning to those who want to build a wall between Mexico and the United States.

Quotation marks for dialogue

Use quotation marks to indicate dialogue.

- "Does the castle look as you remember it, milord?" the captain's daughter asked.
—George R.R. Martin

Quotation marks to signal irony

- O'Reilly's book, *Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination That changed America Forever*, has been banned from Ford's Theatre book store because of the particular "spin" that O'Reilly and his co-writer portray. The ironic element "spin" is used to call attention to O'Reilly's claim that the spin stops with him; however, in his book, he failed to document sources; he made mistakes in historical facts, and he misused words—all of which are contrary to his fair and balanced reporting.