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| http://www.glencoe.com/sec/writerschoice/course/grade6/images/spacer.gif | **Punctuating Dialogue** When you revise dialogue, be sure to punctuate it correctly so that your readers can see who is talking and where a line of dialogue begins or ends. The rules for using quotation marks, commas, and end marks of punctuation are listed below. * Use quotation marks before and after a character's exact words. Place a period inside closing quotation marks.

      **"**Peter and Esteban are joining us**."** * Use a comma to set off the speaker's tag (he said) from the beginning of a quotation. Place the comma inside closing quotation marks when the speaker's tag follows the quotation.

      Harry said**, "**Come on, Ray. It'll be fun**."**      **"**Let's go**,"** Gilda said. * Use quotation marks around each part of a divided quotation. Remember to set off the speaker's tag with commas.

      **"**I'm not sure**,"** said Ray**, "**that I feel like it**."** * Place a question mark or an exclamation point inside the quotation marks when it is part of the quotation.

      **"**When will we be back**?"** Ray asked.      **"**Hooray**!"** said Debbi. * Place a question mark or an exclamation point outside the quotation marks when it is not part of the quotation.

      Did I hear Ray say, **"**Okay**"?**      I can't believe he said, **"**Okay**"!** * Start a new paragraph when you move from one speaker to another.

      "How long a hike is it?" Ray asked. "I don't know whether I have the energy."      "I think," said Iris, "that it's about seven miles to the top."  |