

Mastering Punctuation with Pip

Learning objective: To use and punctuate direct speech correctly, including the use of inverted commas and commas after reporting clauses.

Read the story below about Pip the bookworm and answer the questions. Make sure to check your capital letters and punctuation marks carefully.

Pip the caterpillar sat on a large oak leaf with a pile of new books. He adjusted his tiny reading glasses and looked up at his friend, Nova the owl. 'I have finally finished my favourite story,' Pip chirped happily. Nova flapped her wings in excitement and asked, 'Did the hero find the hidden treasure?' Pip nodded his head and whispered, 'Yes, they found a map made of starlight.'

Word bank: inverted commas · speech marks · reporting clause · capital letter · comma

1. Identify the inverted commas in the passage. Why are they used in the sentence: 'I have finally finished my favourite story,' Pip chirped happily? (2 marks)

2. Find a piece of direct speech in the passage that does not start with a capital letter. Why is this the case, or did you find a mistake? (2 marks)

3. Rewrite this sentence adding the correct punctuation: Nova asked where is the library (2 marks)

4. In the sentence: 'Yes, they found a map made of starlight,' why is there a comma after the word 'Yes'? (2 marks)

5. Write your own sentence where a character (you can choose one of the BookFlik characters) is speaking. Remember to use a reporting clause, a comma, and inverted commas. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar sharing a book with Nova the owl. In a speech bubble above them, write one sentence of dialogue with the correct punctuation.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing a conversation between Max the monkey and Bea the bee. Ensure every line of speech uses correct punctuation, including a capital letter at the start of the speech and a comma before the closing inverted commas.