

USING PUNCTUATION WITH QUOTATION MARKS

USE QUOTATION MARKS [“ ”] TO SET OFF MATERIAL THAT REPRESENTS QUOTED OR SPOKEN LANGUAGE. Quotation marks also set off the titles of things that do not normally stand by themselves: short stories, poems, and articles. Usually, a quotation is set off from the rest of the sentence by a comma; however, the typography of quoted material can become quite complicated. Here is one simple rule to remember:

In the United States, *periods and commas* go *inside* quotation marks regardless of logic *with one exception*: If a quotation appears at the end of a sentence *and* is followed by a citation, the period will appear after the citation.

Example: According to the author, “This will be an extreme hurricane season” (Roker). (*Notice that there is only one period, and it appears after the citation.*)

Following a form of *to say*, you'll *almost always* need a comma:

- My father always said, "Be careful what you wish for."

If the quoted speech follows an independent clause yet could be part of the same sentence, use a colon to set off the quoted language:

- My mother's favorite quote was from Shakespeare: "This above all, to thine own self be true."

When an attribution of speech comes in the middle of quoted language, set it apart as you would any parenthetical element:

- "I don't care," she said, "what you think about it."