

L.O. Use correct punctuation (including for speech) in a story opening.

Re-cap of last lesson - 1st box-up



Revise speech punctuation



Write the opening of the warning story



Re-read & edit



Ideas for 2nd box-up

Yesterday's lesson L.O. was to develop our own ideas for a warning story, based on the underlying patterns of a known text. In other words, boxing up:

| Model Text <i>Keep off the Tracks</i> | Bare bones | Ideas for my text : |
|--|--|--|
| <i>"Don't go playing near that railway track!" Jake's dad warned, ... but then grinned secretly at each other as they turned to go</i> | Opening: MC warned of danger. Hints that MC will ignore warning | Brother and older sister (Nathan & Anna) bored after school, decide to play out; Mum warns not to go near new building site - not a playground! + look after your little brother. Be back for tea at 6. "Yeah, yeah, OK mum". As get on bikes, Nathan asks where they are going. "To the building site, of course!" |

This first section required us to

1. Choose the dangerous place
2. Select the main character or characters
3. Decide who or what gives the warning

Today, we will use our box-up notes to write the opening of our new warning story. Before we do that, we need to refresh our speech punctuation skills (for the spoken warning, of course).

With any luck, you will remember some rules of speech punctuation from our *Street Child* unit, where we focused on using speech to help develop our characters. On the next page is a summary of the three rules we learnt.

Rule number 1: Speech marks (inverted commas) are needed at the start and end of each section of speech. If the character says more than one sentence in their speech, only one set of speech marks is needed, unless that speech is interrupted.

Rule number 2: All punctuation must be correct within the spoken sentences, but there can only be one full stop at the end of the dialogue section.

If the last spoken sentence ends in a full stop (not a question/exclamation mark), then this must change to a comma. The following dialogue verb should **not** have a capital letter.

Rule number 3: If a character's speech is interrupted in the middle by a dialogue verb or extra details, then the speech either side of the interruption must have opening and closing speech marks.

So what does this look like within dialogue sentences? On the following pages, you will see how the spoken warning from both '*Keep of the Tracks!*' and '*The Caravan*' illustrate each of the rules.

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“Now Mitch, don’t go playing up by the pylon,” my mum had warned me often enough. “It’s dangerous. You’ll get yourself electrocuted.”

“Don’t go playing near that railway track!” Jake’s dad warned. “You know it’s dangerous. That’s why it’s illegal!”

Rule number 1: Speech marks (inverted commas) are needed at the beginning and end of each section of speech. If the character says more than one sentence in their speech, only one set of speech marks is needed, and the rest of the speech is written as normal text.

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[redacted] (not a question/exclamation mark), then this
[redacted] The [redacted] dialogue verb [redacted].

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Rule number 3: If a character's speech is interrupted in the middle by a dialogue verb or extra details, then the [redacted] of the interruption is [redacted]

“Now Mitch, don’t go playing up by the pylon,” my mum had warned me often enough. “It’s dangerous. You’ll get yourself electrocuted.”

Let's practise with these sentences. Re-write them to show all the correct punctuation, using the three rules.

these wings are amazing exclaimed Daedalus

oh no! what am I going to do shouted Icarus, as he fell towards the sea

he's flown too close the sun thought his father he did not listen to me

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Your warning does not have to be spoken (if it's a danger sign, perhaps), but your story opening does have to introduce your main character(s). This means that you will have a good opportunity to include some speech - remember that we explored speech characterisation in depth during our Jim & Grimey Nick / Chimney sweep & Master writing unit. You can help the reader to get a better feel for your character's personality through their speech.

| <i>Model Text</i> <i>Keep off the Tracks</i> | Bare bones | Ideas for my text : |
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Here's a starting couple of sentences, based on these box-up notes:

"Oh, OK! Get your shoes on - I give up," groaned Anna, fed up with her little brother's constant whining. He had been nagging her to go out on their bikes since they'd got home from school, and she knew from experience that ignoring him didn't work.

"Dad," she called, as she pulled on her jacket. "Just going out for half an hour on the bikes with Nathan."

Can you spot the speech punctuation rules that have been used?

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Speech marks at the beginning and end of spoken sentences

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Extra speech marks needed only if the speech has been interrupted


All punctuation within spoken sentences correct

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Commas used instead of full stops where the speech is not at the end of the whole sentence.

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Now it's your turn! Write the opening of your story using your box-up notes. Include some speech and try to punctuate it accurately.

