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Phonetic Punctuation

The students would probably enjoy listening to “*Phonetic Punctuation*” by the comedian, Victor Borge, if you can obtain a copy of it.

Mr. Borge assigns every punctuation mark a sound, then reads a short passage, making the sounds for each punctuation mark as he comes to it.

Students could then develop their own phonetic punctuation.

1. Divide the class into groups of five or six.
Each punctuation mark is assigned a sound:

Examples: *period - clap*
 comma - tongue click
 quotation marks - finger snap
 question mark - foot tap

Once this has been decided the students select a passage to read aloud, including the punctuation.

Try to select a passage that includes examples of different punctuation.

Some rehearsal will be needed to perfect this without laughing.

When the selections have been practiced, present them to the class.

2. An alternative activity is to work out a method of “*visual punctuation.*”
In this activity the punctuation is indicated by an action, rather than a sound.

Divide the class into groups of five or six.

Each punctuation mark is assigned a movement.

Examples: *period - nod of the head*
 comma - turn in a circle
 question mark - step forward, then step back in place
 quotation marks - raise hands above head.

Select a passage containing a variety of punctuation to read aloud.

Practice until the students are satisfied with the result.

Present to the class.

Students could write their own selections to demonstrate, but these will need to be checked to ensure that the punctuation is correct.

USING QUOTATION MARKS CORRECTLY

Using Quotation Marks to Show Direct Speech



Quotation marks are used to show *direct speech*.

Direct speech is when the exact words that someone has said are used:

“I’m going to the store,” said Tommy.

Angie asked, ***“May I go to the store?”***

“If it rains,” said Ms Kendall, ***“we will not go to the park.”***

Indirect speech is when what was said is reported by a third person.

Tommy said that he was going to the store.

Angie asked if she could go to the store.

Ms Kendall said that if it rained we would not go to the park.

A. Read each sentence carefully and decide if it is direct or indirect speech.

The quotation marks have been omitted in the sentences.

I think I saw a fox in the field said Phillip. _____ *direct speech* _____

1. Where are you going? asked the teacher. _____
2. Janet said that she had done all her chores. _____
3. Phillip asked may I go to the library? _____
4. Father said that we were grounded. _____
5. Charlene told me that she wanted to go to the dance, but her father had refused to let her go. _____
6. I think said Mother thoughtfully we could go out for dinner this evening. _____
7. Where are my books? asked Sylvie. I’m sure I put them on the desk in my bedroom. _____
8. Paul asked George if he wanted to be his partner so they could work together on the history project. _____