

Dialogue layout and punctuation

“Are you wearing make up, Sir Declan?” enquired Mr Stink innocently.

“A little, yes. For the lights of course.” replied Sir David, a little taken aback by the question.

“Of course,” agreed Mr Stink. “Foundation?”

“Yes.” The presenter was trying to move on now.

“Eye liner?” Mr Stink was not to be side-tracked.

“A little.”

“Lip Gloss?” asked Mr Stink, still very interested.

“A smidge.” Sir David was getting a little flustered now.

“Looks nice. I wish I had some now. Blusher?”

The audience was chuckling throughout this exchange. Sir David moved on rapidly.

Notice

- A new line for each piece of speech, even when it is very short!
- Inverted commas ‘hugging’ what is said.
- ‘said’ or ‘replied’ or ‘asked’ do not normally have a capital letter even if the sentence being spoken is complete.
- Question marks, full stops and exclamation marks are used as appropriate within the speech marks.
- Commas are used if more speech is to come – see fourth line.

Missing punctuation in dialogue

Read each sentence, and add the correct dialogue punctuation

- Speech marks to 'hug' what is said
- Correct sentence punctuation within the speech marks – so use a capital letter at the start and a full stop, exclamation or question mark at the end.

1. I didn't get a chance to go to the little boy's room said Mr Stink loudly
2. Of course, do go if you really must replied Sir David angrily
3. Thank you so much answered Mr Stink I shouldn't be too long
4. Mr Stink told Sir David brightly I only need to do a number one
5. Mr Stink crossed the stage again He turned to the audience I'm told the toilet is this way

Medium **

Missing punctuation in dialogue

Copy this extract but add the correct dialogue punctuation and layout.

I didn't get a chance to go to the little boy's room said Mr Stink.

Of course, do go said Sir David angrily if you must then go.

Thank you so much answered Mr Stink I shouldn't be too long, I think it's just a number one. My apologies exclaimed Mr Stink, crossing the stage again, I'm told the toilet is this way...!

Hard ***

Missing punctuation in dialogue

Copy this extract but add the correct dialogue punctuation and layout.

So Mrs Crumb, is it true... It's Croooooome interrupted Mrs Crumb.

Oh said Sir David I do apologise. We checked the pronunciation

with your husband and he said it was 'Crumb'. Mother went red

with embarrassment, Sir David returned to his question. We want

to discuss the difficult topic of homelessness he began solemnly

but he was disrupted by Mr Stink may I just pop to the lavatory, Sir

Duncan? The audience laughed loudly If you must Sir David was

not impressed I forgot to go before I came Mr Stink explained.