

What to do today

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.

Parents - this continues on from the work done on dialogue last week – but don't worry if you didn't do that week or that bit of work – you can still do this session.

Before you start today's work make sure you have finished reading *Diary of a Lively Labrador*.

1. Recognising dialogue

- Circle the speech marks and underline the dialogue from pages 17-18 of *Diary of a Lively Labrador*.

2. Rewrite speech bubbles as direct speech (dialogue)

- Read through the learning reminders on punctuating direct speech.
- Using your 'Mouse and Boof-Head in conversation' speech bubbles from yesterday write down their conversation as correctly punctuated dialogue.

3. Now for some writing

- Re-read page 3 of *Diary of a Lively Labrador*. It is written from Boof-Head's point of view. How do you think the postwoman / milkman / neighbour might have felt?
- Write a diary entry for the day as if you were one of the other characters. Include some dialogue – make sure you punctuate it correctly.

Try the Fun-Time Extras

- Illustrate an event from your diary extract.
- Start a diary of your own, use an old notebook or exercise book and note down or draw what has happened and how you feel. Don't worry if you don't fill it in every day, just whenever you can. It will be an interesting thing to look back on in the future.

Text from Pages 17-18 of *Diary of a Lively Labrador*

Circle the speech marks and highlight or underline the direct speech (the bit the person actually says).

Use a different colour for each speaker.

MONDAY

Not a good morning. Bounced on the postwoman and the milkman and then, when the paper boy skidded on his bike to avoid me, he ran into the hedge and I got the blame! How unfair is that?

So there I was back in the 'toilet-prison'.

Mouse came to see me, running along the pipes as usual.

"I have had an idea," he told me excitedly, "about your bouncing problem."

"Really?" I replied. I was quite depressed about the whole thing and almost resigned to spending the rest of my life in the toilet!

"Yep," he said, "but it has to be OUR secret!"

And then he started to whisper. As I listened, I first started to smile and then to laugh big, woofy dog laughs.

The Princess came and let me out of the toilet. Perhaps she thought I was barking!

Learning Reminder Punctuating Direct Speech

Punctuating Speech – capital letters open **direct speech**

Direct speech begins with a capital letter, even if it is in the middle of a sentence.

Boof-Head explained, "I am always jumping up on people."

Mouse replied, "That is a quite a problem!"



It is the beginning of the speaker's sentence so a capital letter is used.

Punctuating Speech – commas separate clauses

Direct speech and **reporting clauses** are usually separated by a comma.

"I will try to stop jumping at the postwoman," sighed Boof-Head.

Mouse smiled, "That sounds like a good idea."



The comma is placed at the end of the first clause.
The speech marks follow the comma.

Punctuating Speech – exclamations and questions

If the speech ends in a **!** or **?** we do not need a comma after the speech.

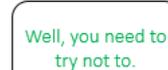
"Why does she get so cross with you?" asked Mouse.

"It's the postwoman!" Boof-Head yelled.



The punctuation is placed inside the speech marks.
The punctuation belongs to the spoken words – they tell you how to say them.

Punctuating Speech – a new line shows a change of speaker



"I keep jumping up on people," said Boof-Head.

"Well, you need to try not to," replied Mouse.

"I will try," sighed Boof-Head as he launched himself towards the postwoman.

Mouse groaned, "We need to come up with a better plan."

We show each **change of speaker** by starting a new line.

This makes it clear when the speaker changes.

Now re-write your speech bubbles from yesterday as correctly punctuated dialogue.

Write a diary entry

- **Re-read** page 3 of *Diary of a Lively Labrador*. It is written from Boof-Head's point of view. How do you think the postwoman / milkman / neighbour might have felt?
- **Write a diary entry** for the day as if you were the postwoman (or one of the other characters). Think about what she might write about such as meeting the dog, who she delivers letters to and who she might chat to, for example, delivering a birthday card and present to the girl next door.
- **Include some dialogue** – make sure you punctuate it correctly.



A large rectangular writing area with a decorative orange and black zigzag border. The interior is divided into horizontal lines for writing.