**A direct quotation has specific rules of punctuation and capitalization.**

* A **quotation** is the exact words a person says or thinks.

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| --- | --- |
| **A quotation :**  “Jerome plays forward on the soccer team”, said Carlos. | **Not a quotation:**  Carlos said that Jerome plays forward on the soccer team. |

* **Quotation marks** are places before and after a speaker’s exact words. The magician explained, “I will pull a rabbit out of this hat.”

“That was an exciting trick!” exclaimed Margaret.

* Capitalize the first word of each sentence in a quotation. Araceli stated, **“S**ome of these crayons are broken**.”**

**“A**re there enough black crayons?**”** questioned Terrance.

**“E**ach od us needs one**.”**

* We usually use a comma to separate the quotation from the rest of the sentence.

**“**I went to the lake last Sunday,**”** stated

Monica. Stated, **“**I went to the lake last Sunday.**”**

**Quotation Marks**