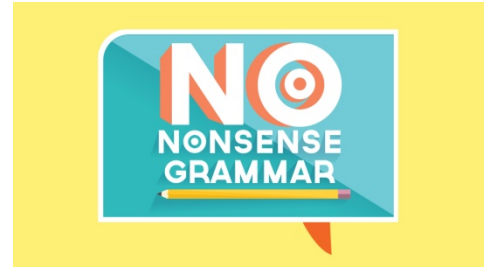


# No Nonsense Grammar



## Using Commas and Quotations

Dialogue is words spoken between two or more people. These words are called direct speech. Writers often use dialogue in narrative writing (telling a story). **Quotation marks** are used to set off words spoken in direct speech. **Commas** are used to separate words, phrases, and clauses in sentences. Commas also set off direct speech and dialogue from the rest of the sentence.

Here are several examples of commas and quotation marks in dialogue:

- “Where have you been? I was waiting at my house forever. You knew how important this birthday party was to me!” Alexis whined to Claire.
- My little sister yelled, “Look at the horses, Mom!”
- “Mary, will you answer the telephone?”
- The author states, “It is clear that when students do their homework, they get better grades on their tests.”