

# Direct Quotations

## Cougars

**Grammar:** Direct Quotations and Interjections

A **direct quotation** presents the exact words of another writer or a speaker.

A direct quotation is enclosed in quotation marks. The first word of a direct quotation is capitalized. The end punctuation of a quotation (period, question mark, or exclamation point) appears before the ending quotation mark.

“Look out for cougars as you drive through the park!”

**Place a comma between other words in the sentence and the direct quotation.**

The ranger said, “Look out for cougars as you drive through the park.”

“Look out for cougars as you drive through the park,” the ranger said.

## Thinking Questions

*Does the sentence give a speaker's exact words?  
How can I separate the exact words from the rest of the sentence?*

**Activity Add quotation marks and commas where they are needed.**

1. Uncle Robert exclaimed I would love to visit Big Bend National Park!
2. He said, This is one of the biggest desert areas in America!
3. I asked him Have you ever seen a mountain lion?
4. Rachel echoed, Did you ever, Uncle Robert?
5. He laughed. Yes, I have, and that was a great day!

**Place quotation marks where they are needed in the paragraph below.**

Uncle Robert said, When I was walking on Emory Peak, I saw a large animal running in the distance. I knew right away it was a cougar.

Rachel interrupted him, Weren't you scared?

Rachel is my baby sister, and sometimes we think alike.

Uncle Robert told us both to relax. Then he said, In this park, the cougars are not used to humans. They don't want to meet us either.