

Interjections and Dialogue

Cougars

Grammar: Direct Quotations and Interjections

Interjections show strong feelings, such as urgency, disbelief, annoyance, pain, shock, or surprise. They usually appear at the beginning of sentences and include such words as *Hey*, *Ouch*, *Wow*, and *No way*. They are followed by exclamation points or commas.

Interjection

Great! My book on cougars is in at the library. (shows excitement, happiness)

Split quotations are direct quotes divided into two parts. Begin and end both parts of the quotation with quotation marks. Capitalize and punctuate the first part the same way as a regular quotation. Place a comma, a space, and quotation marks before the first word of the second part.

Split Quotation

“The cougar moves soundlessly and speedily,” said Ms. Smith, “giving it a great hunting advantage.”

Thinking Questions

Which words tell who is speaking? Do they split the quotation, or come before or after it?

Add the missing punctuation to each sentence. Then identify the interjection and the emotion it expresses.

1. Ouch! Your cat just scratched me, cried Julia, and I was only petting her!
2. What! I can't even see a mark, replied Belle, even with my magnifying glass.
3. Huh! I am just glad she isn't a cougar, moaned Julia, because then I would really be hurt!
4. Oh, Julia, said Belle, do you really think you would be petting a cougar?
5. All right! muttered Julia, I was just saying!