

## Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #46

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### FOCUS      Commas with Speaker Tags

**Speaker tags** are the words used to identify the speaker in dialogue and describe exactly how the speaker communicates that dialogue.

**Example:** Tom (the speaker) shouted (how communicated), “Watch out!”

### CONNECT TO WRITING

In dialogue sentences, place commas 1. After a beginning speaker tag to the left of the quotation marks 2. Before and after a middle speaker tag to the left of both quotation marks 3. Before an ending speaker tag to the left of the quotation marks.

#### Examples:

Beginning	She said, “Leave home at once.”	Note capitalization of the sentence quotation in the middle of the sentence.
Middle	“Leave home,” she said, “at once.”	Note placement of the quotation marks outside of the punctuation.
End	“Leave home at once,” she said.	Note how speaker tag placement changes the meaning of the sentence.

Use a variety of speaker tags such as *said*, *replied*, *shouted*, and *explained* in dialogue to show the speaker’s exact meaning and tone of voice. Avoid over-using *said*.

When writing dialogue, begin a new paragraph each time you change speakers. Don’t start a new paragraph to continue dialogue by the same speaker.

### PRACTICE

Re-write the following quotation sentences with proper punctuation:

1. She said I usually do chores after school
2. They left town I said in a shiny new car
3. I can’t believe it he exclaimed

### WRITE

Write a three sentence dialogue with three different placements of speaker tags.

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## **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet Answers**

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #50 Practice Answers**

1. Lawton, Nevada is my hometown.
2. Olympia, Washington is a beautiful capital.
3. Bogota, Colombia seems like a fascinating city.
4. Glendale, Texas is a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there.
5. I live at 3442 Spring Street in Irvine, South Carolina.
6. I wrote a letter addressed to: Mo Lawson, 34 North Main St., Columbus Ohio.
7. Amador City, California has post office boxes for its residents.
8. St. Petersburg, Russia used to be the capital of that country.
9. When did Juneau, Alaska reach a population of 10,000?

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #51 Practice Answers**

1. Listen to me, Barbara, and then make up your own mind.
2. That's a dangerous thought you've shared, Bud.
3. Look, Jane, it's going to be hard at first.
4. Sitting by the sofa, she said, "Henry, get over here."
5. I just don't know, Bobby.
6. Tawny, watch where you're going.
7. If you notice, Peter and Kris, none of that will be on the test.
8. Look, Paul, and see here, Julie, you both have missed the main point.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #52 Practice Answers**

1. Neither he wanted to face the problem, nor did she want to deal with that challenge.
2. In order that all people would have the same chance, they decided to draw numbers.
3. Raymond sent a message to his cousin, but the message was returned unopened.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #53 Practice Answers**

Left Letter—Dear Ralph, ... Yours truly  
Right Letter—To Whom It May Concern, ... Sincerely,

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #54 Practice Answers**

1. Around the corner she ran into a large, angry dog.
2. If I didn't know better, I would guess that the tired, old woman was not going to leave her house.
3. The funny green character said, "I'm crazy, silly, and full of energy."
4. Unless I'm mistaken, the usual cloudy, gray morning will change to afternoon sun and wind.
5. The book is creative, surprising, delightful, and completely entertaining.
6. The girls are cheerful, helpful, and careful to mind their manners.
7. I left the yucky blue and white board in the stinky, dirty garage.