

1. Read and rewrite each sentence and add quotation marks where they are needed. Replace the word said in each sentence with a suitable powerful word.

- a. "What should we do about our science project?" Mark **questioned**.
- b. Dan **suggested**, "I think we should make a model of an early spacecraft."
- c. "That's a good idea," **shouted** Egan. "Let's make a plan."
- d. "I will do the research," **explained** Ben, "if Dan and Mark gather the materials."
- e. "I agree, Ben," Mark **replied**. "I'd be glad to work with Dan."
- f. "We can meet at my house and get started," **stated** Egan.
- g. "I'll bring some of my mom's brownies," **muttered** Dan, "if you'd like me to."
- h. "I'm allergic to chocolate," **sighed** Egan.
- i. "That's no problem," Dan **replied**. "I'll bring some fig bars, too."
- j. "Let's do it," they **screamed**.

In direct speech, punctuation is very important, but there are two other rules that must also be applied:

- Use a new line for a new speaker.
- Don't use 'said' too often.

2. Rewrite this passage of dialogue with these two rules in mind. The punctuation has been done for you, so make sure you copy it accurately.

"My hen has laid an egg," said Xander, in delight. "Is that the first one?" said Mali. "No. We bought four, but the black one is mine," said Xander, proudly. "She's the best!" "You could sell the eggs," said Mali, getting excited, "and make millions." "I think I might need more than one hen," said Xander, with a grin.

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"I think I might need more than one hen," replied Xander, with a grin.