



Commas and Quotation Marks: Inside or Outside?

Commas always go inside quotation marks in the United States when the comma follows the text in quotation marks.

Example: “We can ask my mother,” said Elizabeth, “she’ll understand.”

Note the comma after Elizabeth. It is outside the quotation mark because it does not follow any quoted text.

Rewrite each sentence below, adding commas in the correct places.

1. “You are looking in the wrong direction” said the detective.
2. His favorite old television shows are “I Love Lucy” “Batman” and “Bonanza.”
3. “If you want to go outside” said Mrs. Clark “you must wear your raincoats.”
4. “Yes, it’s an important clue” replied Vance “but more important is the time of the call.”
5. “Rarely” the doctor observed “has anyone survived such a fall.”
6. At camp we sang “Daisy, Daisy” “Oh! Susannah” and “Skip to My Lou.”

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