

Bugger You, Dad!

by Phil



At the beginning of summer, we decided to have some friends around for a barbecue.

As I recall, it was a fine, mild, early summer's day, with all the activity going on, getting ready for the barbecue. There was my wife preparing the food. I was cleaning the yard and outdoor setting with my twin boys.

My boys were only 18 months old at the time and were learning and experimenting with new words and sounds.

"Help Daddy?" "Sure mate, you can help me. Can you grab that hose over there?" To which one of my boys, with all his might, handed me the hose. "Thanks mate", I said. "Go ask Mum if she has a washcloth to wipe the table down", I asked my other son. Together we got the job done.

With all the necessary tasks out of the way, it was time to have a shower and get ready for the guests to arrive. After a thorough wash, I was at the point of rinsing when one of my boys came into the bathroom. "Bugger you Dad", he said.

I was a little taken aback and asked what he had said, not believing what I had heard. "Sorry mate, say that again?" The reply, "Bugger you Dad!"

Still a little confused I said, "Bugger me, hey?" "Yeah. Bugger you!"

At this point, I was becoming a little annoyed. So to be sure of what he was saying, I asked what he meant.

The reply was simple. "Grandad and Grandma are coming over for a Bugger you." The light went on.

"Ah, you are telling me we are having a barbecue." "Yeah Dad, a Barbecue," came the reply.

With that, there was nothing to do but laugh, and have a story to tell for the rest of my days. Wait until their 21st birthday, this is sure to get a few laughs!

I contacted Read Write Now to improve my spelling and reading. I have noticed a significant improvement since starting the Program. Some of the gaps have been filled.



Punctuation

*Note to Tutor:
This Lesson is focused
on punctuation, particularly
use of speech marks.*

Hopefully, you enjoyed that story!

As you know, a **full stop** (.) indicates the end of a sentence.

In this text, "Help Daddy?" is the first example of the use of quotation marks, also called speech marks.

Speech marks can be single (') or double ("), but **they come in pairs** - one at the beginning, and one at the end of the quote. Usage of single and double quotation marks varies in Australian, British and American texts. The most important thing is to be consistent with whichever type you use.

Everything which was said, should be enclosed within the pair of speech marks. That includes punctuation which is relevant to the quote.

So, for example, when the child said "Help Daddy" it was intended as a question, so the question mark goes within the pair of speech marks: "Help Daddy?"

A **question mark** (?), like a full stop, indicates the end of a sentence - so there is no need for a full stop after a question mark!

A **comma** (,) indicates a slight pause when reading.

Commas are used in lists (apples, oranges, bananas, etc), and often they are used to break a sentence, when inserting a direct quote.



Activities related to Punctuation

Here is a paragraph from the story. The punctuation has been removed.

**The reply was simple Grandad and Grandma are coming over for a
Burger you The light went on**

Can you add the punctuation? Try to do it without looking at the story. There are full stops and speech marks missing.

Here is another excerpt for you to add punctuation to:

**Ah you are telling me we are having a barbecue Yeah Dad a
Barbecue came the reply**

In this case, there are full stops (2), commas (3) and speech marks missing. BUT: Your punctuation doesn't have to exactly match the writer's. Just make sure that yours will be read in a manner which sounds realistic.

Do you remember 'Knock, knock!' jokes? If not, your tutor might need to explain...

A 'Knock, knock!' joke always starts with "Knock, knock!"
Then the other person responds by saying "Who's there?"...

Here is an example:

Person 1: "Knock, knock!"

Person 2: "Who's there?"

Person 1: "Figs."

Person 2: "Figs who?"

Person 1: "Figs the doorbell, it's broken!"

Here is another 'Knock, knock!' joke. Read it aloud with your tutor. Then add the appropriate punctuation.

Person 1: Knock Knock

Person 2: Who's there

Person 1: Canteloupe

Person 2: Canteloupe who

Person 1: Canteloupe to Vegas. Our parents wouldn't like it

Speech or quotation marks can also be used anywhere in a sentence, to indicate something special about a word or phrase. You might have noticed that single quotation marks were used for the expression 'Knock, knock!' when it was used as the name of the type of joke - and then double quotation marks were used to indicate speech: "Knock, knock!".

Here are some examples:

- I read the book 'Chamber of Secrets' and also saw the movie.
- Let's meet at 'The Grand Cinemas' in Geraldton.

In the cases above, the speech marks surround the name of something specific.

- Some people think that just getting the vote gave women 'equality'!
- The trees have been cut down in the name of 'progress'!

In these two cases, the speech marks indicate that the enclosed word is being used in a particular way - sarcastic, rather than sincere. You might gain the impression that the speaker doesn't see these things as 'equality' or 'progress'.

- This research delves into computer programming and 'hacking'.

In this one, the speech marks enclose a term which has a particular meaning, in the context of computers (ie, it's different to "a hacking cough"!)

Now here is your big challenge!

Remember that, as long as your version reads in a realistic way, your version does **not** have to match the original, at all.

**Help Daddy Sure mate you can help me Can you grab that hose
over there To which one of my boys with all his might handed me
the hose Thanks mate I said Go ask Mum if she has a washcloth
to wipe the table down I asked my other son Together we got the
job done**

After punctuating, you might like to get your tutor to read your final version aloud, to you, observing all of your punctuation. That way, you will discover if it sounds the way you intended.

Imagine a scenario where you are in a strange town and asking directions to a tourist spot (Paris? The Eiffel Tower? maybe...) Write down what you would say, and then the reply you might get. Then, add appropriate speech marks.

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Now imagine you are on the bus. Someone gets onto the bus, talking loudly on their mobile phone. This might have happened to you, already! Eavesdrop on the one-sided conversation - you can't help it! In-between each fragment of speech, there will be pauses for the other person's response. Imagine the dialogue:

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Now... you guessed it! - **Add the punctuation!** 😊

Now imagine you enter a chemist, to request over-the-counter medication for a cough. Write some dialogue between yourself and the assistant, and add suitable punctuation, including speech marks.

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