

## Worksheet 2

# The Happy Prince

## *Direct Speech is a Piece of Cake*

Some people think that writing conversation is difficult because of the punctuation. But they are wrong. When you use a graphic novel like “The Happy Prince” to help write speech it’s a piece of cake.

### How Do We Write Speech?

Look at the first page of the story where people are admiring the statue of the Happy Prince. The mother with the little boy is speaking and we know her exact words because they are inside the speech bubble.

If we re-wrote the scene as a story without speech bubbles we would take her exact words from the speech bubble and put them inside inverted commas.

It would look like this:

A mother with a small son asked, “Why can’t you be like the Happy Prince?”

This tells who is speaking      This tells what was said      This tells she asked a question

### Remember

- i) The inverted commas go around the exact words that were in a speech bubble.
- ii) We need to tell who is speaking. In the example above it is the mother.
- iii) We use said or asked or whispered or shouted to explain the way the person spoke.
- iv) We put a comma to separate who is speaking from what they say.
- v) At the end of what is said we use a full stop or a question mark.



### For You To Practise

1. Look at the illustration that shows the swallow first speaking to the Happy Prince.

In the sentence below, fill in the exact words that the swallow used.

The swallow flew up and perched on the shoulder of the Prince and asked,

“.....? .....”

2. Turn to the page where the snow had come. Use the speech bubbles to help you put the inverted commas in the correct place.

The swallow said, I must go to Egypt.

The Prince answered, Just before you go. Since I am now blind --- fly over the city and tell me what you see.

3. Turn to the page where the statue is dull and grey. Put in the correct punctuation.

The prince said Thank you swallow. Now go. Before you die.

The swallow answered No. I cannot leave you now.

4. Select any page from the story and change a speech bubble into direct speech. Remember to show who is speaking, to use inverted commas and to separate the speaker from what he says with a comma.

### On Your Own

If you are having a problem with writing conversation draw a small cartoon with speech bubbles. Then whatever goes inside the bubble goes inside the inverted commas.

