

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Unit

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Team: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Cask of Amontillado*  
E. A. Poe

## *Grammar Link*

### Dialogue—Who’s Talking?

**ROB:** Ms. Jenkes said that Poe got killer headaches.

**AMY:** Really?

**ROB:** Well, actually she said, “Poe may have suffered from migraines.”

How is Rob’s first statement different from his second? His first statement is a rewording of his teacher’s comment about Poe. His second statement shows exactly what Ms. Jenkes’ words were. Quotation marks are used to enclose a direct quotation—a person’s exact words. Do not use quotation marks to enclose an indirect quotation—a rewording of a direct quotation.

**DIRECT:** Montresor replied, “I have my doubts.”

**INDIRECT:** Montresor replied that he had his doubts.

Below are some rules to keep in mind when using quotation marks.

1. Direct quotations begin with a capital letter.	“My dear Fortunato, you are luckily met.”
2. When a quoted sentence is interrupted by a speaker tag, the second part of the sentence begins with a small letter.	“Come,” I said, with decision, “we will go back; your health is precious.”
3. A direct quotation is set off from the rest of the sentence by a comma, a question mark, or an exclamation point—not by a period.	<b>NONSTANDARD:</b> “It is nothing,” he said, at last. <b>STANDARD:</b> “It is nothing,” he said, at last.
4. When used with quotation marks, the other marks of quotation are placed according to the following rules.  a. Commas and periods go inside the closing quotation marks.  b. Semicolons and colons go outside the closing quotation marks.  c. Question marks and exclamation points go inside the closing quotation marks if the quotation itself is a question or an exclamation. Otherwise, they are placed outside.	“The Montresors,” I replied, “were a great and numerous family.”  At one point, Montresor says, “A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser”; what does he mean?  “Niter?” he asked, at length.  How I jumped when Montresor said he was thrust backward by “a succession of loud and shrill screams”!
5. Use single quotation marks to enclose a quotation within a quotation.	“All Fortunato ever seems to say is Amontillado!” said Nora.
6. In dialogue, begin a new paragraph every time the speaker changes, and enclose the speaker’s words in quotations.	“How long have you had that cough?” “Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!—Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!—Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!—Ugh! Ugh! Ugh! . . .”

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**Exercise A Using Quotation Marks to Change Meaning**

Change the meaning of the sentences below by adding quotation marks. Add or change other punctuation and capitalization as necessary.

**EXAMPLE:** Fortunato said Montresor is a quack.

"Fortunato," said Montresor, "is a quack."

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1. Fortunato, I cry. Can't you hear me?

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2. Poe said the teacher was a very disturbed individual.

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3. Luchesi says Fortunato is an ignoramus.

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4. Montresor declares Nigel must feel somewhat guilty for walling up his poor friend.

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5. "Yes," I said for the love of God.

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**Exercise B Proofreading Paragraphs**

The following paragraphs contain errors in the use of capitalization, quotation marks, and other punctuation. Correct the errors, and indicate where paragraphs should indent. A few corrections have been made as examples.

Montresor crept up the stair of his mansion after his evening's work. Suddenly, a hand clutched his shoulder, and a voice that put him in mind of a foghorn snarled, "Montresor, where have you been? And what are you hiding under your roquelaure?" "Oh, Berthe, Montresor stammered. You were supposed to sneak out tonight like the other servants, I mean . . ." "WHAT do you mean? You explicitly told us to stay *in*". "Just so, my faithful housekeeper, just so. Well, toodle-loo. I'm off to bed".

"That's right, Sir, you go on. I'm off to do some cleaning in the cellar".

Montresor froze in his tracks. Naturally, he was not keen for Berthe to be nosing around the cellar. Now, Berthe, he said, I really don't think you should, it's so damp, and there's niter everywhere"! Berthe was beginning to bustle toward the cellar door. Montresor had to act. "Let me lead you, if you must go, he said, tucking his trowel under his cloak. after all, it's dark, and only I know the way . . ."