Mechanics Monday NOV 24, 2014

Paraphrasing and Quotation Marks

Sometimes it is important to quote a person directly. Other times it is more appropriate to summarize what they say. You have to know how to do both, and which is most appropriate

For example:

I have something to tell you: I love Joss Whedon’s TV shows and watch one at least once a year. If you want to convey that fact about me, you have two choices:

“I love Joss Whedon’s TV shows and watch at least once a year,” wrote Mr. Campbell.

Or

Mr. Campbell explained that he enjoys Joss Whedon’s TV shows and works his way through at least one every year.

Now, you try figuring out which is which. Below is a short paragraph from an imaginary news article. Following the story are sentences about something in the paragraph. Based on the paragraph and what you can infer from it, write “Quotation if any part of the sentence is quoted; or, write “Paraphrase” if no quotation appears. I haven’t inserted any quotation marks so the task is harder. If you are up to it, insert them yourself.

A stunningly positive annual report for Jump-Thru Hoops International, Inc., is due tomorrow. According to inside sources who wish to remain anonymous, the company will announce that profits have nearly doubled in the last year. The increase is credited to the company’s newest product, the Talking Hoop. Buyers moving the hoop around their hips hear a drill sergeant screaming commands as the exercise. Company officials have high hopes for their next product, Ring-Tone Hoops.

Example: Q. The Talking hoop has been so successful that the company has made twice as much money this year as it did last year.

1. Paraphrase. The information is from the paragraph, but the wording is different
2. Jump-Thru Hoops International plans to market a hoop with ring tones
3. The company is doing well, and profits have nearly doubled in the last year
4. Go faster, Private! Is what you hear when you’re playing with this hoop
5. The annual report should give shareholders cause for celebration.
6. Our best-selling product is the Talking Hoop, said Max Hippo, the president

Direct Quotations:

The basic rule for quotation marks is simple: Place quotation marks around words drawn directly from someone else’s speech or writing, or, if you’re writing in the Great American Novel, place quotation marks around dialogue.

The tricky part is how quotations act around other punctuation.

So, here are some general rules to help you:

1. **If the quotation has a speaker tag (he murmured, she screamed, and so forth) the speaker tag needs to be separated from the quotation by a comma.**
   1. If the tag is **BEFORE** the quotation, the comma comes BEFORE the opening quotation mark: *Sharon sighed, “I hate hay fever season.”*
   2. If the tag is **AFTER** the quotation, the comma goes inside the closing quotation mark: *“What a large snout you have,” whispered Joe lovingly.*
   3. If the speaker tag appears **IN THE MIDDLE** of a quotation, a comma is placed before the first closing quotation mark and immediately after the tag: *“Here’s the Handkerchief,” said Joe, “that I borrowed last week.”*
2. **If the quotation ends the sentence, the period goes inside the closing quotation mark.** *Joe added, “I would like to kiss your giant ear.”*
3. **If the quotation is a question or an exclamation, the question mark or the exclamation point goes inside the closing quotation mark.***“Why did you slap me?” asked Joe. “I was complimenting you!”*
4. **If the quotation is neither question nor exclamation, but the sentence in which the quotation appears is, the question mark or exclamation point goes outside the closing quotation mark.** *I can’t believe that Joe said he’s “a world-class lover”! Do you think Sharon will ever get over his “sweet nothings”?*

Quoting Titles

Everyone thinks titles appear in quotation marks. Not so! Here is a situation to help you with the rules:

Imagine a basketball player, one who tops seven feet. Next to him place a jockey; most jockeys hover at around five feet. When you’re deciding how to punctuate a title, figure out whether you’re dealing with an NBA player or a Horseback rider using these rules:

1. **Titles of full-length works are *italicized* or underlined. (The basketball player)**
   1. Novels
   2. Magazines
   3. Television series
   4. Plays
   5. Epic poems
   6. Films
2. **Titles of shorter works are placed in quotation marks. (The jockey)**
   1. A single poem
   2. A short story
   3. A single episode of a television show
   4. A song
   5. An article