



These rules apply to titles that are tucked into sentences. Centered titles, all alone at the top of a page, don't get any special treatment: no italics, no underlining, and no quotation marks.

When a title in quotation marks is part of a sentence, it sometimes tangles with other punctuation marks. The rules in American English (British English is different) call for any commas or periods *after* the title to be placed *inside* the quotation marks. So if the title is the last thing in the sentence, the period of the sentence comes before the closing quotation mark. Question marks and exclamation points, on the other hand, don't go inside the quotation marks unless they're actually part of the title.



If a title that ends with a question mark is the last thing in a sentence, the question mark ends the sentence. Don't place both a period and a question mark at the end of the same sentence.



All set for a practice lap around the track? Check out the titles in this series of sentences. Place quotation marks around the title if necessary, adding endmarks where needed; otherwise, underline the title. Here and there you find parentheses at the end of a sentence, in which I add some information to help you.

- Q. Have you read Sarah's latest poem, *Sonnet for the Tax Assessor* (The sentence is a question, but the title isn't.)
- A. **Have you read Sarah's latest poem, "Sonnet for the Tax Assessor"?** The title of a poem takes quotation marks. Question marks never go inside the quotation marks unless the title itself is a question.
23. Sarah's poem will be published in a collection entitled *Tax Day Blues*
24. Mary's fifth best-seller, *Publish Your Poetry Now*, inspired Sarah.
25. Some of us wish that Sarah had read the recent newspaper article, *Forget About Writing Poetry*
26. Julie, an accomplished violinist, has turned Sarah's poem into a song, although she changed the name to *Sonata Taxiana*
27. She's including it on her next CD, *Songs of April*
28. I may listen to it if I can bring myself to turn off my favorite television show, *Big Brother and Sister*
29. During a recent episode titled *Sister Knows Everything*, the main character broke into her brother's blog.
30. In the blog was a draft of a play, *Who Will Be My First Love?*

Calling All Overachievers: Extra Practice with Quotation Marks



Tommy Brainfree's classic composition is reproduced in Figure 7-1. Identify ten spots where a set of quotation marks needs to be inserted. Place the quotation marks correctly in relation to other punctuation in the sentence. Also, underline titles where appropriate.

What I Did during Summer Vacation

by Tommy Brainfree

This summer I went to Camp Waterbug, which was the setting for a famous poem by William Long titled Winnebago My Winnebago. At Camp Waterbug I learned to paddle a canoe without tipping it over more than twice a trip. My counselor even wrote an article about me in the camp newsletter, Waterbug Bites. The article was called How to Tip a Canoe. The counselor said, Brainfree is well named. I was not upset because I believed him (eventually) when he explained that the comment was an editing error.

Are you sure? I asked him when I first read it.

You know, he responded quickly, that I have a lot of respect for you. I nodded in agreement, but that night I placed a bunch of frogs under his sheets, just in case he thought about writing How to Fool a Camper. One of the frogs had a little label on his leg that read JUST KIDDING TOO.

At the last campfire gathering I sang a song from the musical Fiddler on the Roof. The song was called If I Were a Rich Man. I changed the first line to If I were a counselor. I won't quote the rest of the song because I'm still serving the detention my counselor gave me, even though I'm back home now.

Figure 7-1:
Sample
school
report sans
quotation
marks.