**How to Use Proper Punctuation When Writing Dialogue**

**1. Place quotation marks around the words that actually come out of the person’s mouth.**

If the words go in a comic strip bubble, then quotation marks go around those words.

**2. Place ending periods and commas inside the end quotation mark.**

Mariah said, “I want an elephant for my birthday.”

**3. Place proper punctuation at the end of the sentence.**

“I want an elephant for my birthday,” Mariah repeated.

**4. Each time a person speaks, begin a new paragraph.**

Mariah stomped her foot and demanded, “I want an elephant for my birthday!”

“Certainly, honey,” her father replied. “Anything for my angel.”

**5. Capitalize the first word of what the person says, even if it occurs in the middle of a larger sentence.**

Mariah’s mother asked her husband, “Where are you planning on keeping this elephant?”