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Quotation Marks: US vs UK

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | Comma | Indirect speech | Past tense | Period | Phrase | Possessive | Punctuation | Quotation mark | Sentence | Simple tense

1. A music journalist is finalizing an interview transcript. Select ALL the sentences that correctly apply either US or UK rules for formatting nested quotes and ending periods.

Select all that apply.

A) He said, "My best song is 'Yesterday.'"
B) He said, 'My best song is "Yesterday"'.
C) He said, "My best song is 'Yesterday'."
D) He said, 'My best song is "Yesterday."'

2. Help the student format their essay for an American university using standard US quotation rules. Drag the correctly punctuated phrases to complete the sentence.

The author described the event as _____ but called the recovery effort _____

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) "a total disaster,"
B) "a total disaster",
C) 'a total disaster',

Blank 2

A) "inspiring."
B) "inspiring".
C) 'inspiring'.

3. You are proofreading a literature essay for a strict American professor. Which sentence correctly applies US quotation mark rules for ending punctuation?

Select one.

A) My favorite short story is Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery."
B) My favorite short story is Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery".
C) My favorite short story is Shirley Jackson's 'The Lottery'.
D) My favorite short story is Shirley Jackson's 'The Lottery.'

4. You are proofreading a literature essay. Select ALL the options that perfectly follow either standard US or UK punctuation rules for quotation marks.

Select all that apply.

A) The professor called the poem "a masterpiece."
B) The professor called the poem 'a masterpiece'.
C) The professor called the poem "a masterpiece".
D) The professor called the poem 'a masterpiece.'

5. A British music blogger is drafting her latest post. Select the sentence that perfectly follows traditional UK quotation mark conventions.

Select one.

A) She said, 'My favourite song is "Yesterday".'
B) She said, "My favourite song is 'Yesterday.'"
C) She said, 'My favourite song is 'Yesterday'.'
D) She said, "My favourite song is "Yesterday"."

6. Help the author format their manuscript correctly for an American publishing house. Select the correct option for each blank.

The hero turned and said, _____ before walking into the mist.
I can't wait to read the final chapter, titled _____

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** "I will return,"
- **B)** "I will return",
- **C)** 'I will return',

Blank 2

- **A)** "A New Dawn."
- **B)** "A New Dawn".
- **C)** 'A New Dawn'.

7. Help the film student format their script review. Select ALL the sentences that correctly follow either standard American (US) or standard British (UK) quotation mark rules.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The director shouted, "I told you to say, 'Action!'"
- **B)** The director shouted, 'I told you to say, "Action!"'
- **C)** The director shouted, "I told you to say, "Action!""
- **D)** The director shouted, 'I told you to say, 'Action!"

8. Help the exchange student format her essay using traditional British English punctuation rules. Select the correct option for each blank.

The critic described the film as _____ but the audience loved it.
My favourite chapter in the textbook is _____

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** 'a total disaster',
- **B)** 'a total disaster,'
- **C)** "a total disaster,"

Blank 2

- **A)** 'The Journey'.
- **B)** 'The Journey.'
- **C)** "The Journey."

9. Help the American theater critic finish her scathing review! Choose the sentence that correctly follows standard US punctuation rules.

Select one.

- **A)** "The play was a total disaster," she wrote.
- **B)** "The play was a total disaster", she wrote.
- **C)** 'The play was a total disaster', she wrote.
- **D)** 'The play was a total disaster,' she wrote.