

# *Period and Quotation Marks*

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**Don't get this wrong!**



**Where should I put period  
marks?**



# Where should I put period marks?

- ▶ Universal American usage places commas and periods inside the quotation marks, regardless of logic.
- ▶ Ex: “ Rachel,” she said, “stop reading Frankenstein and go outside for a while.”
- ▶ Ex2: “ I will in a minute,” she replied, “as soon as I finish this chapter.”



**Even when just one word?**



# Even when just one word?

- ▶ This rule applies even when the word enclosed at the end of the sentence is just a single word rather than an actual quotation:
- ▶ Ex: To get to the next page, just press the little button marked "Enter."



**The only exception!**



# The only exception!

- ▶ The only exception is when that last little item enclosed in quotation marks is just a letter or a number, in which case the period or comma will go outside the closing quotation marks.
- ▶ Ex: The buried treasure was marked on the map with a large "X".
- ▶ Ex2: The only grade that will satisfy her is an "A".



Between???



# Between???

- ▶ Of course, if another set of words or a parenthetical citation gets between the quoted material and the end of a sentence, then the comma or period will follow the intervening elements
- ▶ Ex: "Rachel, put the book down and go outside" was what Lauren said, but what Rachel heard was "Blahblahblahblah" or something even less meaningful.



**Extra: Question mark and  
exclamation mark**



# Extra: Question mark and exclamation mark

- ▶ Follow the dictates of logic in determining where the question mark or exclamation point goes. If it is part of the quotation itself, we put it inside the quotation marks, and if it governs the sentence as a whole but not the material being quoted, we put it outside the quotation marks.
- ▶ Ex: Have you read the assigned reading, "Frankenstein"?