

An Overhead Resource

Direct Address in Dialogue

from WritingFix (<http://WritingFix.org>)

When speaking out loud, sometimes a character's name is directly addressed in our dialogue. This is called a **direct address**. Here are three examples:

- “Why did you do it, Steve?”
- “Mrs. Harrison, I need to borrow the hall pass.”
- “I’m coming to get you, Barbara, so you better not hide.”

Sometimes a character's name is substituted with a respectful title. This might be because the character talking doesn't know the person's name they are directly addressing, or it might be some sort of job requirement or form of respect. Here are three examples:

- “Hand me the scalpel, Nurse.”
- “Sir, I’m going to need you to come with me.”
- “Mike was hiding here, Officer, and now he’s gone.”

Sometimes **direct addresses** get combined with **interjections**. Interjections are supposed to be separated from their sentences with their own commas, but you can usually let the direct address and the interjection share a comma between them. Here are three examples:

- “Hey dude, where’s my car?”
- “Please Ozzy, don’t run when the deck is icy.”
- “Yes class, we are going to write about Ben Franklin today.”