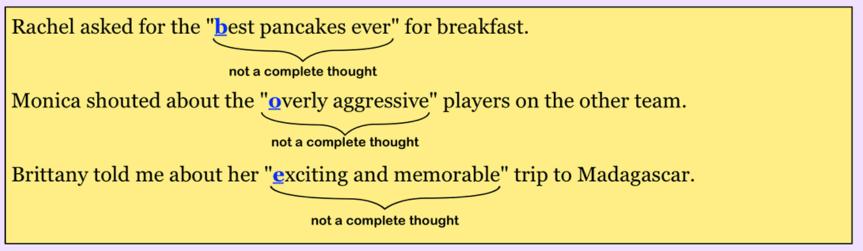In most cases, capitalize the first word of a quoted sentence. This is true even if the quote starts in the middle of a sentence.

Rachel asked, "**H**ow many more weeks until Thanksgiving?"

complete sentence

Monica shouted, "**M**aybe we'll get to go to the beach today!"

complete sentence

Brittany said, "**T**his banana looks like it's been in the cabinet a while."

complete sentence

If a quote in the middle of a sentence is not a complete thought on its own, don't capitalize it.

Rachel asked for the "**b**est pancakes ever" for breakfast.

not a complete thought

Monica shouted about the "**o**verly aggressive" players on the other team.

not a complete thought

Brittany told me about her "**e**xciting and memorable" trip to Madagascar.

not a complete thought

Fix the capitalization errors below:

Noah Prince said that there was a "Magical tunnel to the future" in his backyard.
Noah Prince said that there was a "magical tunnel to the future" in his backyard.

Margaret Atwood read the weather alert aloud: "there is going to be a flash flood this afternoon."
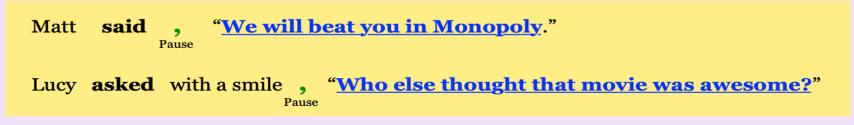Margaret Atwood read the weather alert aloud: "There is going to be a flash flood this afternoon."

Recognizing pause before dialogue quotes

Dialogue quotes are introduced by dialogue words like "said" and "wondered."

Readers naturally pause before a dialogue quote. The comma before the quote reminds us to pause.

Matt **said** **,** "We will beat you in Monopoly."
Pause

Lucy **asked** with a smile **,** "Who else thought that movie was awesome?"
Pause

Here are some common examples of dialogue words:

said	yelled	shouted
sang	thought	wondered
asked	announced	claimed

Flow quotes are different from comma quotes because they naturally blend (or "flow") into the text around them. The reader does not need to pause before a **flow quote**.

No Pause
Matt thinks **that** he is a "master at Monopoly."

No Pause
Lucy argued **that** the movie was "the most awesome movie of the year."

Should the reader PAUSE before the highlighted portion?

At the playground, Phoebe Buffay warned me that "the high schoolers always put butter on the slide."
DON'T PAUSE

Dropping ten boxes on the porch, the mailman lectured Alex Clark, "You shop on Amazon too much!"
PAUSE