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How good are you at punctuating quotations?

Everyone who writes news releases for a living knows the value of quotations. But surprisingly few people graduating from college these days can actually punctuate a sentence with a quotation in it. Can you?

Here are 10 punctuation challenges. A pro should be able to get all 10 correct.

1. im proud to be an american citizen said afrim defiantly
2. our company was founded on the principles of quality and value he said
3. what do you mean said Johnson raising an eyebrow
4. responding to the question CEO robert johnson said theres no evidence linking my company to those accidents
5. you look like you like pizza said luigi you came to the right place
6. the only difference between my generic product and theirs said johnson is the name on the label
7. i want you to read the raven a poem by edgar allen poe said the professor
8. the professor turned suddenly and said I want to make sure you read the raven
9. have any of you ever read the raven he asked
10. in a long quotation said professor gans find a way to let the reader know who is speaking as early as possible the professor drank some amber liquid from a flask he had hidden in his pocket and continued no later than the end of the first sentence he said



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ANSWERS TO QUOTATION QUIZ

1. im proud to be an american citizen said afrim defiantly

“I’m proud to be an American citizen,” said Afrim, defiantly.

2. our company was founded on the principles of quality and value he said

“Our company was founded on the principles of quality and value,” he said.

3. what do you mean said Johnson raising an eyebrow

“What do you mean?” said Johnson, raising an eyebrow.

4. responding to the question CEO robert johnson said theres no evidence linking my company to those accidents

Responding to the question, CEO Robert Johnson said, “There’s no evidence linking my company to those accidents.”



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ANSWERS TO QUOTATION QUIZ (p.2)

5. you look like you like pizza said luigi you came to the right place

“You look like you like pizza,” said Luigi. “You came to the right place.”

6. the only difference between my generic product and theirs said johnson is the name on the label

“The only difference between my generic product and theirs,” said Johnson, “is the name on the label.”

7. i want you to read the raven a poem by edgar allen poe said the professor

“I want you to read ‘The Raven,’ a poem by Edgar Allen Poe,” said the professor.

8. the professor turned suddenly and said I want to make sure you read the raven

The professor turned suddenly and said, “I want to make sure you read ‘The Raven.’”



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ANSWERS TO QUOTATION QUIZ (p.3)

9. have any of you ever read the raven he asked

“Have any of you ever read ‘The Raven’?” he asked.

10. in a long quotation said professor gans find a way to let the reader know who is speaking as early as possible the professor drank some amber liquid from a flask he had hidden in his pocket and continued no later than the end of the first sentence he said

“In a long quotation,” said Professor Gans, “find a way to let the reader know who is speaking as early as possible.” The professor drank some amber liquid from a flask he had hidden in his pocket and continued. “No later than the end of the first sentence,” he said.

How many did *you* get right?

- 1 – 3:** High school
- 4 – 6:** Undergrad
- 7 – 8:** Grad (Non-English Major)
- 9:** Talented amateur
- 10:** Seasoned PR pro

Want to dispute your grade? Email me at gansr@sage.edu