

# When Quote Marks Are Unnecessary

The Craft of Writing · By Simon Townsend · 1 min read

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You wrote " " with quote marks around it. You are unnecessarily using quotation marks around words and phrases, and this is now considered old fashioned writing. If you want to draw attention to a word or phrase, consider putting it in italics. There is no need to put quotation marks around well-known slang, foreign words, new words, names of homes, ships or planes, or around nicknames or unusual words. If the word or phrase is worth using, just use it. You've used the word or phrase in the belief that your average reader understands. So don't dress it up in quotation marks (or inverted commas) which is distracting for the reader. For instance, see how annoying it is to read the above paragraph again with unnecessary quotation marks: You are "unnecessarily" using quotation marks around "words and phrases", and this is now considered "old fashioned" writing. If you want to draw "attention" to a word or phrase, consider putting it in "italics". There is no "need" to put quotation marks around "slang", "foreign" words, "new" words, names of "homes", "ships" or "planes", or around "nicknames" or "unusual" words. If the word or phrase is "worth using", just "use" it. You've used the word or phrase in the "belief" that your average reader "understands". So don't dress it up in quotation marks (or "inverted commas") which is often "distracting" for the reader.

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