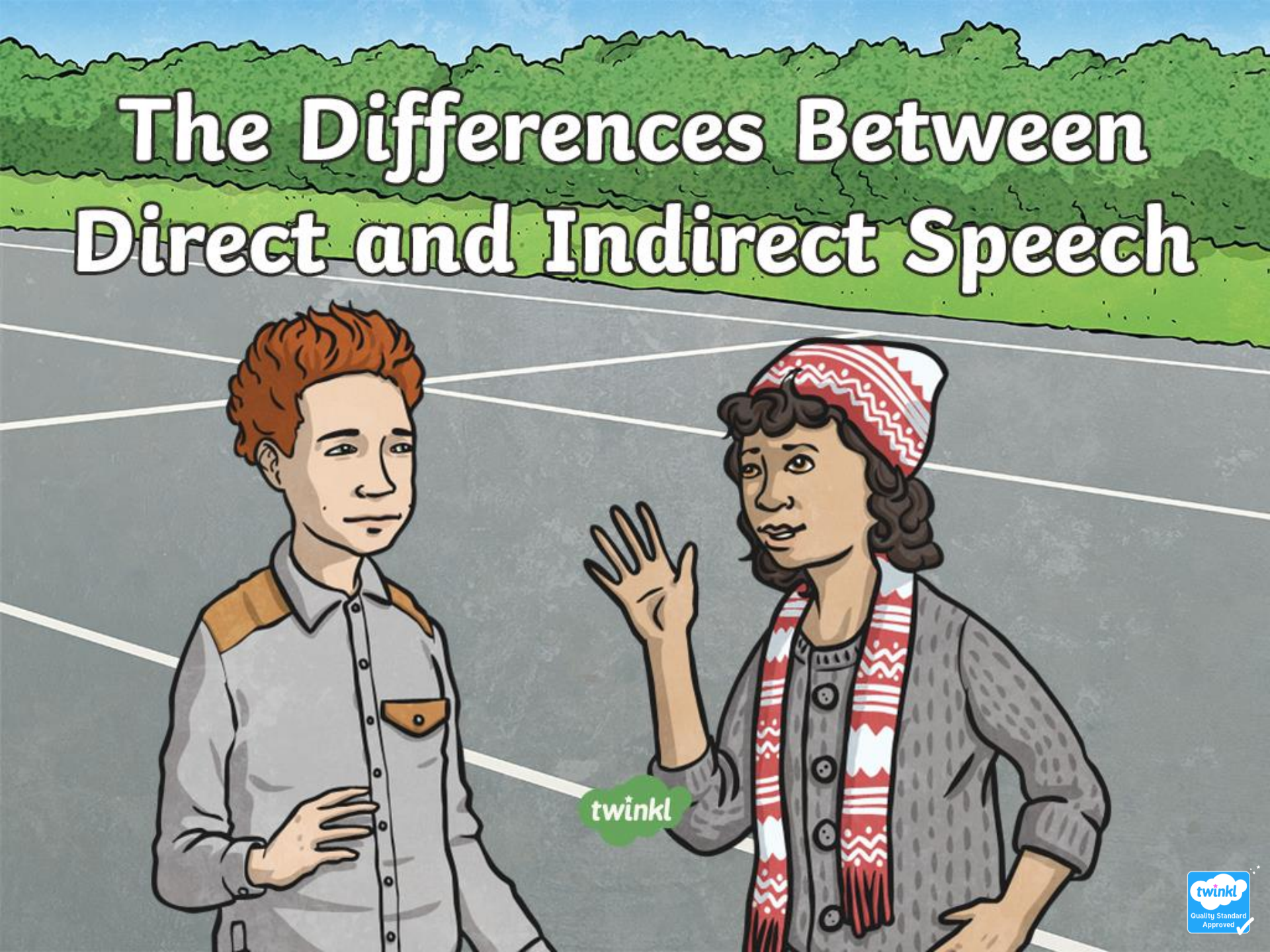
The Differences Between Direct and Indirect Speech



Aim

- I can explain the differences between direct and indirect speech.

Success Criteria

- I can identify direct and indirect speech in writing.
- I can recognise where inverted commas are needed to punctuate direct speech.
- I can change direct speech into indirect speech (and vice-versa).
- I can create examples of direct and indirect speech.

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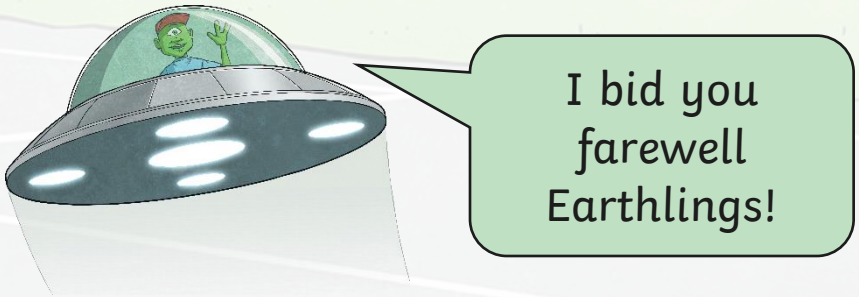
Using Speech within Writing

Within writing, there are two ways to narrate the words spoken by a character. These are called:

- direct speech
- indirect (or reported) speech



In a direct speech sentence, we would narrate Iggy's spoken words like this:

"I bid you farewell Earthlings!" shouted Iggy from his spaceship.

If we were writing an indirect speech sentence, we would narrate Iggy's spoken words like this:

From his spaceship, Iggy bid farewell to the Earthlings.

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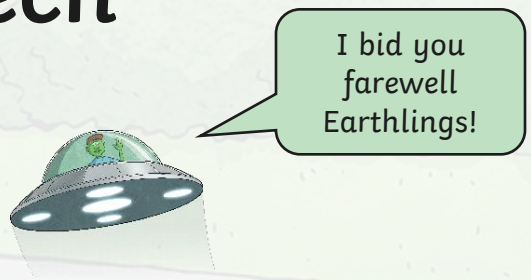
Using Direct Speech

Let's look carefully at the direct speech sentence.



What do you notice?

"I bid you farewell Earthlings!" shouted Iggy from his spaceship.

The exact words of the speaker are enclosed in inverted commas (speech marks).

In direct speech, the exact words of the speaker are quoted with no change to their content or order.

The correct punctuation is used before the inverted commas close.

There is often a reporting clause to explain who said the speech. Sometimes the reporting clause can be extended with an adverb, subordinate clause or prepositional phrase to explain more about how, where or when the speech was said. The reporting clause can appear before or after the spoken words themselves.

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Using Indirect Speech

Now, let's take a look at the indirect (reported) speech sentence.

How is it different to the direct speech sentence?

From his spaceship, Iggy bid farewell to the Earthlings.

In indirect speech, no inverted commas (speech marks) are used.

The actual words of the speaker are often changed. The spoken words need to be in the correct tense, extra words may need to be added and pronouns may need to be changed (e.g. I ➔ Iggy).

There are no reporting clauses within indirect (reported) speech. However, an adverb or prepositional phrase to explain more about how, where or when the speech was said can be added if needed.

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Are Inverted Commas Needed?

Look at these speech sentences. Are they examples of direct or indirect speech?

If they are examples of direct speech, where should we place inverted commas?

Kayla explained that she used to live in New York.

This is an example of indirect speech and does not need inverted commas. The sentence is reporting what Kayla explained.

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Are Inverted Commas Needed?

Look at these speech sentences. Are they examples of direct or indirect speech?

If they are examples of direct speech, where should we place inverted commas?

" Watch out!" screamed George as he launched the frisbee.

This is an example of direct speech and does need inverted commas around the spoken words. Where should they go?

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Are Inverted Commas Needed?

Look at these speech sentences. Are they examples of direct or indirect speech?

If they are examples of direct speech, where should we place inverted commas?

Guthrum announced that they should charge towards to the village.

This is an example of indirect speech and does not need inverted commas. The sentence is reporting what Guthrum announced.

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Are Inverted Commas Needed?

Look at these speech sentences. Are they examples of direct or indirect speech?

If they are examples of direct speech, where should we place inverted commas?

The doctor gently said, "Open your mouth as wide as possible."

This is an example of direct speech and does need inverted commas around the spoken words. Where should they go?

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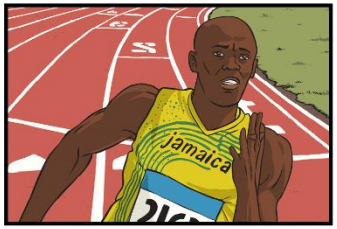
The Sporting Telegraph

www.sporting-telegraph.com — The Number One Sports Newspaper

Brilliant Bolt Grabs Gold Again!

Jamaican Sprinter Takes London by Storm Winning Three Olympic Gold Medals

Exclusive Report by John Stevenson



Usain Bolt: winner of three Olympic gold medals in London

Usain Bolt reaffirmed his title as the World's Fastest Man by achieving a marvellous third gold medal of the games this week. In front of a deafening capacity crowd in London's Olympic Stadium, the 25-year-old world record holder completed a remarkable set of victories to establish himself as one of the greatest sprinters of all time.

Following earlier victories in both the 100m and 200m individual sprint, Bolt inspired his Jamaica team-mates to a third triumph in the 4x100m relay. The three gold medals are added to his personal collection alongside similar achievements in the corresponding individual events of Beijing in 2008.

Afterwards, the reigning 100m and 200m world champion was understandably buoyant in his celebrations.

"It's a brilliant feeling. It's been a long road. I'm happy, but I'm relieved. It's great to be in the history books as one of the greatest. I'm proud of myself," he told reporters.

Although other athletes have won more medals than Bolt, including American sprinter Carl Lewis who was commentating for a television network, no-one else can match the explosive power and unrivalled pace exhibited by Bolt.

The sprinter's Jamaican team-mates were equally jubilant following their relay victory, describing it as a momentous day in Athletics history. Even the American team, who were disqualified from the relay following a disastrous illegal baton handover, were gracious in defeat. Admitting disappointment at missing out on a team medal, Justin Gatlin promised supporters that the team had given it all they could and refused to criticise the officials' decision, but did apologise to the US fans.

Now thinking ahead to his future and the potential of bringing down the curtain on a glittering Athletics career, Bolt confirmed that he intends to compete in 2016 but retire before the next Olympic Games in 2020. Instead, he will focus on charity work, a likely ambassador role in the sport or could even consider a dramatic switch to another sport such as football. As the crowds filtered out of the magnificent stadium, the talk was all about just one man - the incredible Usain Bolt, who is surely already an Olympic legend.

Spotting Direct and Indirect Speech

Can you spot an example of direct speech in this newspaper report?

Here is a passage of direct speech. It has inverted commas, other speech punctuation and a reporting clause.

Can you spot an example of indirect speech in this newspaper report?

Here is a passage of indirect speech. It has no inverted commas or reporting clause. It tells the reader what Justin Gatlin promised his supporters.

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Changing Indirect Speech to Direct Speech

Do you remember this indirect speech sentence from earlier? Could you turn it into a direct speech sentence?

Guthrum announced that they should charge towards to the village.

"We should charge towards the village!" announced Guthrum.

What has changed? Why?

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Changing Direct Speech to indirect Speech

Now, can you do the opposite? Could you turn this direct speech sentence from earlier into a line of indirect speech?

The doctor gently said, “Open your mouth as wide as possible.”

The doctor gently told the patient that he should open his mouth as wide as possible.

What has changed? Why?

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Writing Direct and Indirect Speech Sentences

Look at this photograph. Can you invent both a direct and an indirect speech sentence based upon it?

Example Sentences

Direct Speech

"I want an ice cream!" shouted the angry little boy.

Indirect Speech

The angry little boy shouted that he wanted an ice cream.

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Writing Direct and Indirect Speech Sentences

Look at this photograph. Can you invent both a direct and an indirect speech sentence based upon it?

Example Sentences

Direct Speech

The championship driver shrieked, “We won the race!”

Indirect Speech

The championship driver shrieked that they had won the race.

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Writing Direct and Indirect Speech Sentences

Look at this photograph. Can you invent both a direct and an indirect speech sentence based upon it?

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Example Sentences

Direct Speech

"Say cheese, dad, " pleaded the girl as she was taking the photograph.

Indirect Speech

As she was taking the photograph, the girl pleaded for her dad to say cheese.

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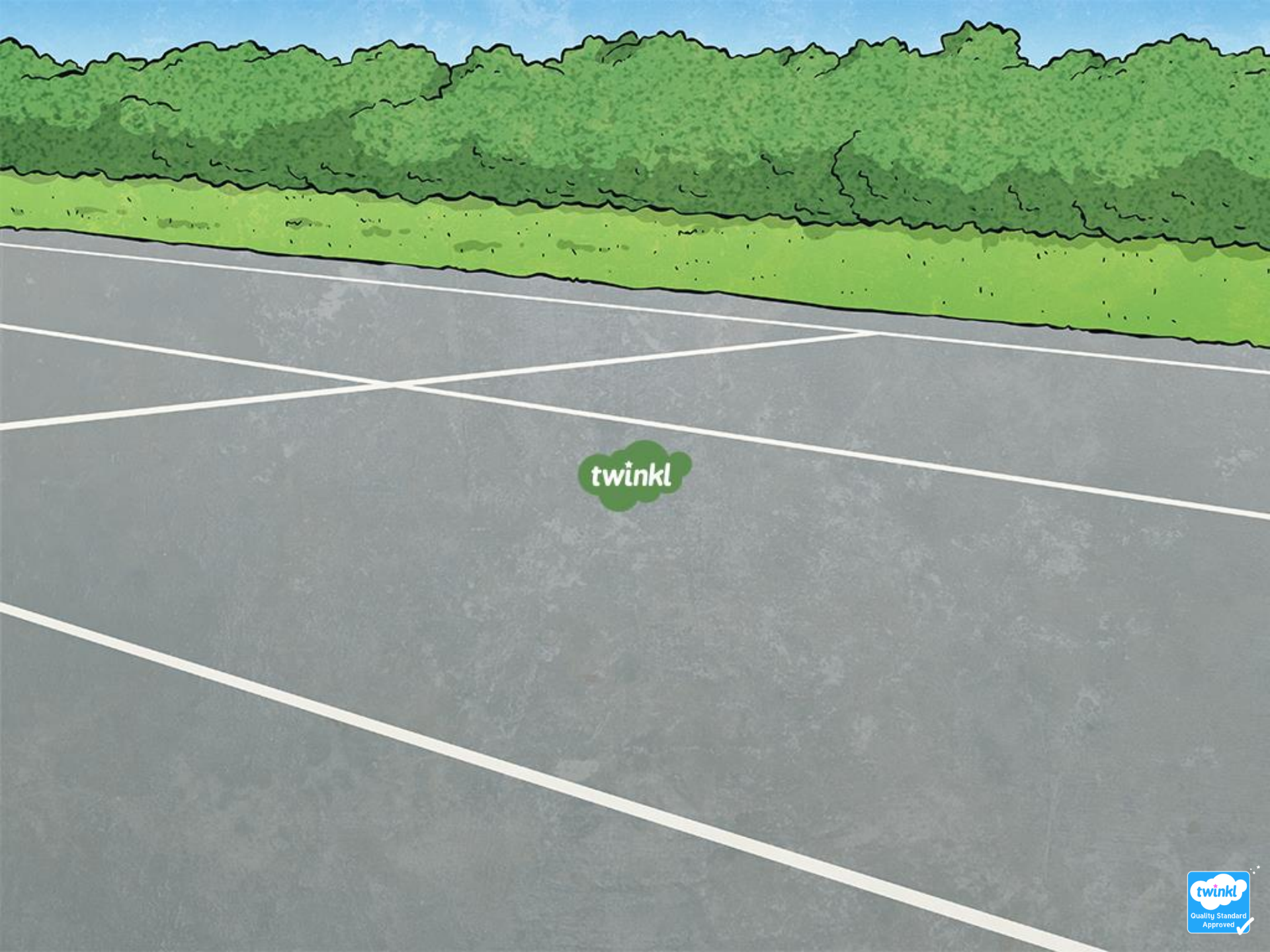
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