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1. Direct speech

Objective

To use and punctuate direct speech.

What you need

Extract 1, photocopiable page 22 'If Stig spoke English', interactive activity 'Which is correct?'.

Cross-curricular link

Drama

What to do

- Display and read Extract 1. Draw attention to the layout and punctuation used for direct speech. Ask: *Which punctuation marks are used?* Pay particular attention to marks before the final speech mark.
- Display the interactive activity 'Which is correct?'. Invite the children to identify the correctly punctuated sentences and ask for volunteers to punctuate the remaining sentences.
- Dictate two or three short sentences of dialogue for the children to write on their individual whiteboards, showing you the results. Go over any common errors to reinforce the correct punctuation.
- Ask the children, in pairs, to imagine Stig could speak English and to improvise short conversations between Barney and Stig about the weather, their clothes, wild animals and their homes.
- Hand out copies of photocopiable page 22 'If Stig spoke English' for the children to complete independently.

Differentiation

Support: Explain that speech marks act like someone opening and closing their mouth to speak. Invite the children to say something that Stig might say, write it down and add speech marks and any other punctuation, and then add 'said Stig' and a full stop. Repeat this several times until the children can do it independently.

Extension: Challenge the children to write a dialogue between three characters from the story.

2. Standard English

Objective

To use standard English forms for verb inflections instead of local spoken forms.

What you need

Extract 3, interactive activity 'Ere, that ain't it!', printable page 'Wot's wrong 'ere?'

Cross-curricular link

Drama

What to do

- Display and read Extract 3. Talk about the Snargets' use of non-standard English and how it aids characterisation (see Shared Reading teaching notes on Extract 3 for further ideas). Ask for specific ways in which the Snargets' speech has been written, for example, apostrophes to indicate missing letters, deliberately misspelled words, incorrect use of verbs.
- Display the interactive activity 'Ere, that ain't it!'. Go through it with the children, or ask them to complete it themselves. Afterwards, draw attention to the misuse of verbs (be sensitive to those children whose natural speech contains these).
- Read out some sentences with examples of incorrect verb usage for the children to correct, using the terms 'we wasn't', 'I seen', 'I done'.
- Hand out copies of printable page 'Wot's wrong 'ere?' for children complete independently. Encourage them to share their own non-standard English sentences for a partner to then change to standard English. Share some of the children's sentences and 'translations' with the class.

Differentiation

Support: Work through printable page 'Wot's wrong 'ere?' together, talking about vernacular words such as 'ain't', which may be unfamiliar to non-native English speakers.

Extension: Encourage the children to develop a scene, written as a playscript, in the style of the Snargets, which they can practise and perform.

If Stig spoke English

- What might Barney and Stig say to each other if they spoke the same language? Write their possible conversations for each heading below. Remember to use correct punctuation.

The chalk pit	Rubbish thrown away
Living in a cave	Food