

Punctuation Marks

Name: _____

If you can figure out the basic rules and usages of punctuation, you can really improve your writing. Proper use of punctuation either enhances what it is you're saying or it detracts from it. When I learned

about the power of the semicolon, it literally revolutionized my writing. So, sit back and enjoy the ride on this one. There's nothing that can happen here except making the writing you do even better.

End Marks

There are only three ways to end a sentence. Only three. Either you use a period (.), a question mark (?), or an exclamation point (!).



Periods indicate the end of a statement of fact or a sentence of command. They are also used in abbreviations and initials to indicate that you are not writing out the entire word.

Examples	It won't take long before you become a master of punctuation.
	Don't be cruel.
	Mr. Johnson was once the president. ("Mr." is an abbreviation of "Mister.")
	L.B. Johnson was once the president. ("L.B." is an abbreviation of the name "Lyndon Baines.")

NOTE: Several styles of abbreviations are often acceptable, some of which do not require a period; for example, AM or a.m.



Question marks are used only after you've asked a direct question.

Examples	Oh where, oh where has my little dog gone?
	Why did you get your hair cut?





Exclamation points are used at the end of sentences that express sudden emotion or feeling, or forceful commands. As a general rule your words should convey the feelings—not your punctuation. Reserve exclamation points for truly important statements.

Examples	Man overboard! Oh, no! Not another tattoo!
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Exercise 4.1

Punctuate the following:

1. She did not like living among the lizards and rattlesnakes
2. How wonderful it must be to grow up on a warm, sunny island
3. Oh my goodness Did you see the new teacher
4. What a great party this is
5. Did I ever tell you my middle name



<u>KIND OF SENTENCE</u>	<u>WHAT IT DOES</u>	<u>TERMINAL PUNCTUATION</u>
1. ASSERTIVE	It tells something/ <i>statement</i>	Period (.)
2. INTERROGATIVE	It asks a question.	Question Mark (?)
3. IMPERATIVE	It gives a command.	Period (.)
4. EXCLAMATORY	It expresses strong feeling.	Exclamation Mark (!)



Name _____

Date _____

Directions: Read each sentence. If the sentence is a statement write an S, if it is a command write C, if it is a question write Q, or if it is an exclamation write E on the blanks. Add the correct punctuation at the end of each sentence.

A **statement** is a sentence that tells something. It ends with a period. (*assertive*)

A **command** is a sentence that tells someone what to do. It ends with a period. (*imperative*)

A **question** is a sentence that asks something. It ends with a **question mark**. (*interrogative*)

An **exclamation** is a sentence that shows strong feeling. It ends with an **exclamation point**. (*exclamatory*)

- _____ 1. Would you like some pizza
- _____ 2. Clean your room before dinner
- _____ 3. They all walked to school together
- _____ 4. Have you been to the new mall
- _____ 5. We won the game
- _____ 6. Help your sister with the dishes
- _____ 7. I love my new puppy
- _____ 8. May we please go to the park
- _____ 9. I can't believe we got first row seats
- _____ 10. Do your homework

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Directions: Add the correct punctuation mark to the end of each sentence. *Indicate what type of sentence it is.*

1. My favorite dessert is ice cream .
2. Mom, will you bake cookies for us
3. Clean up the milk you spilled
4. Wow, these taste delicious
5. Let's have bologna for lunch
6. It is a great day to have a picnic
7. Hooray, you finished your whole plate of dinner
8. What is your favorite fruit
9. Finish your broccoli
10. Our friends gave us a pizza party
11. What do you like on your pizza
12. Yuck, I hate asparagus
13. Save the leftovers
14. Dad said we couldn't have soda with our dinner
15. How many cupcakes would you like

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Terminal Punctuation

The numbered sentences that follow report what was heard at one end of a telephone conversation between two girls. You need only one person's part of this conversation to give you some practice using punctuation marks at the end of sentences.

1. Who is speaking, please?
2. Mary, this is Joan.
3. What did you get for your birthday?
4. What a useful present!
5. Won't it soil easily?
6. Don't ever wash it in hot water.
7. It will shrink and the wool will mat.
8. Use lukewarm water and a detergent.
9. Don't squeeze it to remove the water.
10. Lay it out flat on a towel to dry.

Name the kind of each of the above ten sentences.

Mafatu saw a series of wide stone terraces rising in a pyramid many feet high. On top of this pyramid a grotesque idol, hideously ugly, reared in the brilliant sunshine. It was an ancient idol, its contours softened with fungus and lichens, and corroded by the rains of the ages. The roots of convovulus writhed about its base. No wind reached this hidden circle, and insects hummed in the hot air. Mafatu felt that he was stifling. His heart pounded as he stood in this sacred place!

Scarcely daring to breathe, he advanced a step. Then he drew up short. Around the base of the idol he saw piles of bones, charred, but not old. The platform was strewn with them. The bones were too large for dogs and too large for pigs. Then Mafatu understood. His heart congealed! This was a Forbidden Island! Here the eaters-of-men made their terrible sacrifices to their god.

It was evident that the savages had been here recently for the piles of ashes rested undisturbed by wind and storm. The cleared circle seemed to hold its breath, locked in a supernatural silence.

As the boy paused, hesitating, looking up at the towering shrine, his eye was caught and held by a gleam of light and his heart gave a mighty leap. He saw that a spearhead lay on the sacred platform. It was finely ground and sharp-edged and could be used to obtain food and as a weapon against attack. Dare he take it? It might mean death! His heart pounded. He moved one foot forward. His hands were damp and cold. The flashing spearhead winked back at him like an evil eye. The boy's limbs turned to water. For a second he was powerless to move. In that moment had a score of black men leaped forth from the jungle he could not have stirred or cried. He fought to control himself. Taking a deep breath, he whispered, "It is you, Maui, God of the Fishermen, who have led me to this island. I know it. Do not forsake me now."

Almost it seemed as if he could see dark shadows moving among the ferns, and hear the phantom whisper of voices. Poised for instant flight, he edged forward. He was so close to the idol that he could have touched it. He reached out his hand. It took every ounce of will. The spearhead glistened brightly. His fingers closed about it and tightened. Quickly the boy drew the spearhead toward him, but in moving it he dislodged a bone. It fell at his feet. Its touch was deathly cold! Mafatu gasped! Then he whipped about and ran. The spearhead was still gripped tightly in his fist.

At last, on reaching a plateau, he drew up breathless and panting. The spear flashed in his hand. He looked down at it in wonder. Nothing had happened to him! He had touched the idol and dislodged a bone on the shrine. Yet he still lived! The sun shone. The sky arched blue. Nothing was changed. And this spear! It was a beautiful one! It was worth all the risk. Those eaters-of-men had wrought well. Now he, Mafatu, could kill the wild pig! Now he could defend himself against attack.

EXERCISE 1: Select from the above selection

1. four exclamatory sentences,
2. one interrogative sentence,
3. a sentence of two words,
4. an imperative sentence,
5. three sentences of three words each,
6. the sentence with the greatest number of words.