



**#9986**

## **PUNCTUATION: PROGRAM 6-- INTRODUCTION TO PUNCTUATION AND THE END MARKS**

FILMS FOR THE HUMANITIES & SCIENCES, 2000  
Grade Level: 6-12  
17 mins.

### **DESCRIPTION**

Punctuation makes sentences as clear as possible to the reader. The end marks (period, question mark, and exclamation point) indicate how a sentence is said. Discusses use of the period in commands, declarative sentences, and with abbreviations; the question mark in interrogative sentences and to show disbelief or sarcasm; and the exclamation point for emphasis. Gives clear rules and examples.

### **ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

#### **Subject Area: Language Arts–Writing**

- Standard: Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions in written compositions
  - ◆ Benchmark: Uses conventions of punctuation in written compositions (e.g., uses exclamation marks after exclamatory sentences and interjections; uses periods in decimals, dollars, and cents; uses commas with nouns of address and after mild interjections; uses quotation marks with poems, songs, and chapters; uses colons in business letter salutations; uses hyphens to divide words between syllables at the end of a line) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1-4.)
- Standard: Uses the stylistic and rhetorical aspects of writing
  - ◆ Benchmark: Uses descriptive language that clarifies and enhances ideas (e.g., establishes tone and mood, uses figurative language, uses sensory images and comparisons, uses a thesaurus to choose effective wording) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 5.)

### **INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS**

1. To define punctuation and explain its importance in written English.
2. To explain the use of periods as ending punctuation for statements or commands and their use in abbreviations.
3. To examine the use of question marks as ending punctuation and as part of an itemized list in an interrogative sentence.
4. To illustrate the use of exclamation points.
5. To explain how to make sentences more exciting without using exclamation points.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This video is a continuation of another series called *The Split-Infinitive World of English Grammar: Program 6, CMP #10154*, which features the most common errors in recognition of what are called "sentence boundaries." It is suggested that these two videos be taught in reference to one another rather than as wholly separate units. For example, you may find that students will continue to create sentence fragments as they attempt to apply lessons being taught here about the period, so you may need to replay CMP #10154 as part of the teaching of this video.

## VOCABULARY

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. abbreviate              | 10. optional                                |
| 2. acronym                 | 11. periods                                 |
| 3. annoying                | 12. punctuation                             |
| 4. commands                | 13. question marks                          |
| 5. disbelief               | 14. sarcasm                                 |
| 6. exclamation point       | 15. Standard Edited American English (SEAE) |
| 7. extreme emotion         | 16. statements                              |
| 8. interrogative sentences | 17. tone                                    |
| 9. itemize                 |   |

## BEFORE SHOWING

1. Write short stories on any topic. Retain the stories for use after showing the video. (See AFTER SHOWING, Applications and Activities 3.)
2. Show examples of written English without any punctuation.
  - a. Try putting various punctuation marks in the writing to change the meaning of the sentences.
  - b. Discuss how punctuation assists the reader.
  - c. Describe known rules for using ending punctuation.

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Explain why punctuation is an important part of written language.
2. Define *punctuation*.
3. Where can punctuation marks be found?
4. Describe the punctuation marks used to end a sentence. Discuss why the ending punctuation marks tell people *how* the sentence is said and how they indicate the tone of the sentence.
5. Explain the use of periods in abbreviations. What is the rule for whether or not you can abbreviate a word? Why do some acronyms and abbreviations not have periods?
6. When can a period be used for two purposes at the same time?
7. What kinds of sentences have a question mark at the end? When is the only time you can correctly use a question mark at the end of statement?
8. How else can question marks be used? Give an example.

## C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

9. Why are exclamation points used? Give examples. Why shouldn't you use too many exclamation points?
10. What is a better way to make a sentence exciting than just adding an exclamation point?

### Applications and Activities

1. Practice periods use. Place periods within or after the following abbreviations, where appropriate. Do not place periods within or after abbreviations that don't require them.
  - a. Rob (for Robert).
  - b. PC (for personal computer).
  - c. etc (for et cetera).
  - d. Rd (for Road).
  - e. www (for World Wide Web).
  - f. St (for Street).
2. Practice using periods and questions for ending punctuation. Place a period or a question mark after each sentence, where appropriate.
  - a. I wonder if we take this form to the office on the right or the office on the left\_\_
  - b. He wondered, "Do I take the form back to the counter \_\_\_"
  - c. She couldn't believe what she'd just heard. "So Mortimer is the killer \_\_\_ It can't be."
  - d. Mortimer was the killer\_\_\_ Of that he was certain.
3. Return to the stories written before showing the video. Evaluate the use of punctuation in your own story. Correct any mistakes you find. (See BEFORE SHOWING 1.)
4. Write stories deliberately leaving off the end punctuation of the sentences.
  - a. Have fellow students play with these stories by trying out periods, question marks, and exclamation points in new places.
  - b. Read their new concoctions aloud, letting the punctuation guide their inflection and intensity.
5. Practice writing with better word choices instead of using exclamation points.
  - a. Create dramatic, scary, surprising, hilarious, powerful, fictional or true stories without any exclamation marks.
  - b. Share the stories with classmates.
  - c. Read and show a published work in one of these genres that also accomplishes strong emotion in the reader without the use of exclamation points.
  - d. Discuss how the experienced writer accomplishes vivid effects through words and punctuation.
6. Watch the previous video in this series, *The Split-Infinitive World of English Grammar: Program 6*, CMP #10154. Discuss the information presented.

### SUMMARY

Mastering punctuation requires both understanding and finesse. In this program, Mama Napoli, a crossing guard, and other savvy English authorities open a dialogue on punctuation and then skip to the end—of the sentence, that is. The use of the

period in commands, in declarative sentences, and with abbreviations; the question mark in interrogative sentences and to show disbelief or sarcasm; and the exclamation point for emphasis are all discussed in detail.

## CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- *The Grammar Key #9207*
- *Punctuation: Program 7–The Wily Comma #9995*
- *Punctuation: Program 8–The Semicolon, Colon, and Dash #9994*
- *Punctuation: Program 9–Surrounding Information #9991*
- *Punctuation: Program 10--Hyphens, Apostrophes, Slashes, and Ellipses #9990*

## World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

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### • STANDARD DEVIANTS: ENGLISH PUNCTUATION

[http://standarddeviants.com/pls/brain/cerebellum.show\\_subj\\_resource?p\\_info\\_type\\_id=5&p\\_subject\\_id=21](http://standarddeviants.com/pls/brain/cerebellum.show_subj_resource?p_info_type_id=5&p_subject_id=21)

Includes downloadable tests, interactive quizzes, puzzles, games, and helpful punctuation cards.

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### • THE BLUE BOOK OF GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

<http://www.grammarbook.com/>

This award-winning site created by Jane Strauss includes printable punctuation exercises and tests.

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### • PUNCTUATION MARKS

<http://webster.commnet.edu/grammar/marks/marks.htm>

Includes information and explanation about various punctuation marks and provides interactive online quizzes.