

Punctuation

Reading and Discussion



What do you think is happening in these two pictures? Perhaps Danny is being teased by his friends. He is telling them to stop. Diane's friends must be saying or doing something nice because she doesn't want them to stop. But the words they are using are exactly the same. What is the difference? It's the punctuation.

Punctuation marks are very small and sometimes we don't quite know what to do with them. But, as you can see, they can make a big difference to the meaning of a sentence. Here are some of the punctuation marks we are going to learn about today. Let me introduce them to you.

This is the **period (.)** it is also called the **full stop**. We use it at the end of a sentence.

Here is the **comma (,)** it is used to separate two clauses, a list of nouns, or adjectives, and also before conjunctions such as **and**, **but**, and **or**.

Have you met the **question mark?** You'll find it at the end of any question.

Oh look! Here is the **exclamation mark (!)** It is used to show surprise or after an instruction. Don't use it too often though!

This little mark has a big name. It's called an **apostrophe (')**. We use it for contractions: it is = it's, do not = don't. We also use it to show possession. Danny's favorite punctuation mark is an apostrophe.

And last of all, here are the **quotation marks ("")**. They show us when someone is speaking. Diane says, "Punctuation is very important."

Activities

A. Name the punctuation marks

Can you connect the labels to the correct punctuation marks? Once you have done that, draw lines to show what each one is used for. One has been done for you.

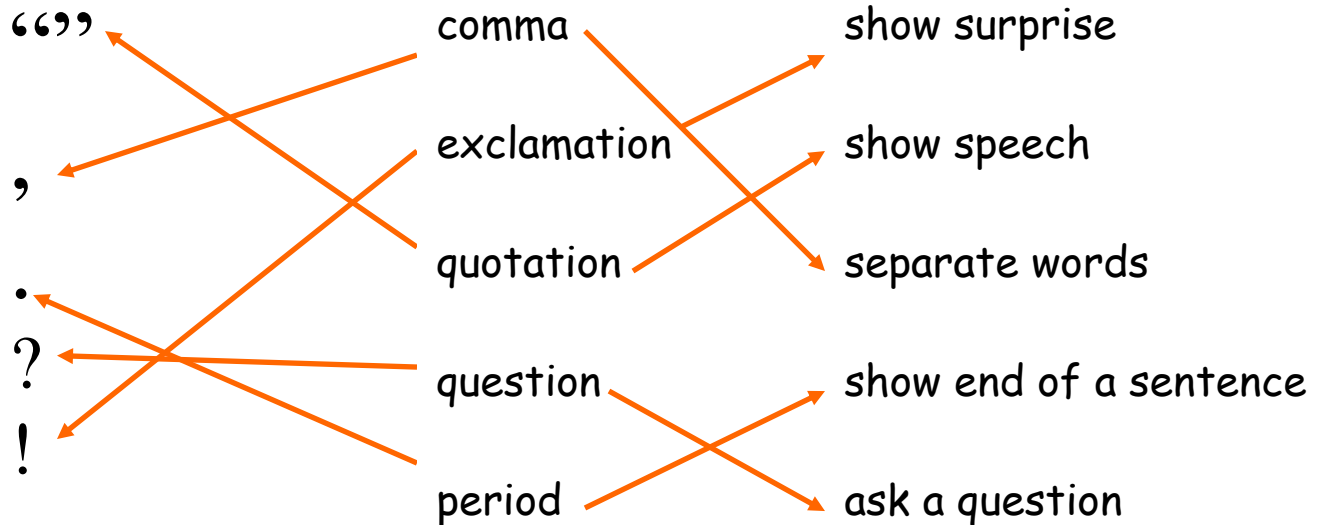
| | | |
|-----|-------------|----------------------|
| “ ” | comma | show surprise |
| ; | exclamation | show speech |
| • | quotation | separate words |
| ? | question | show end of sentence |
| ! | period | ask a question |

B. Fill in the missing punctuation

1. Wow
2. Where are you going
3. I want a ball a bat a train set a doll and a puzzle for my birthday
4. Mom said I want you home before dark
5. That is Peters book
6. Stop doing that now
7. I dont want to go to bed
8. May I have a cookie
9. That isnt mine
10. My friend said I want you to come to my party

Answer Key

Activity A



Activity B

1. Wow !
2. Where are you going ?
3. I want a ball, a bat, a train set, a doll, and a puzzle for my birthday.
4. Mom said, "I want you home before dark."
5. That is Peter's book.
6. Stop doing that right now!
7. I don't want to go to bed.
8. May I have a cookie?
9. That isn't mine.
10. My friend said, "I want you to come to my party."