

Using a Full Stop, Question Mark or Exclamation Mark to Punctuate a Sentence



Photo courtesy DavidErickson (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Recap

Can you identify these three punctuation marks?



exclamation mark



question mark



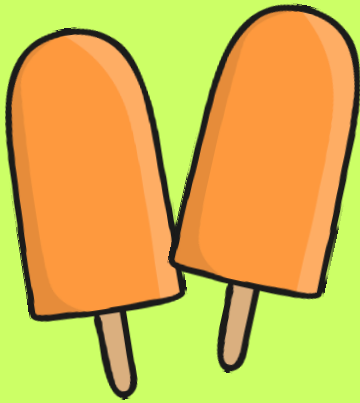
full stop

All three punctuation marks are used to finish sentences.

A Full Stop

A full stop is the most common way of ending a sentence.

As long as a sentence is not asking a question or expressing strong feeling or emotion, it will probably end in a full stop.



The dog ran home.

The boat sailed away.

I enjoyed my ice lolly.



Put the full stops back into this passage of writing:

The lion cubs were only one week old Their mother looked after them carefully
The people on safari tried to spot them in the bushes but the lion cubs stayed
hidden

A Question Mark

A question mark ends a sentence that is a question.

These could be simple questions like:

What is your name?

or more complicated / informal questions like:

You are going to school, aren't you?
See you later?

Tip:

Do not use question marks after indirect or reported questions like:

Peter asked Michaela to marry him.
I'm wondering if you are going to laugh.

An Exclamation Mark

An exclamation mark ends a sentence that shows a strong feeling like surprise or anger. You can also use them to show someone shouting or raising their voice.

Here are some examples:

Hey! Stop it!

Wow! I never expected you to come.

Remember, don't be late!

Tip:

Exclamation marks are usually used in speech. Try to avoid using them in formal writing.



Top Tips



- All these punctuation marks have a space after them but no space before them.
- New sentences always need capital letters, no matter which punctuation mark you choose.
- Do not use exclamation marks in formal speech.

THE END