

PUNCTUATION

What are Punctuation Marks?

Punctuation marks are **symbols** to help readers understand how to read sentences.

Examples:

- **Period**-ending marks, abbreviations
- **Question mark**-ending marks
- **Exclamation point**-ending marks
- **Comma**-separating items or words, direct address, dates
- **Semicolon**-joining two parts of a compound sentence
- **Colon**-before a list of items, in times, after the salutation of a business letter
- **Quotation marks**-enclosing a direct quotation, songs, short stories, or poems
- **Apostrophe**-possessives, contractions
- **Hyphen**-word breaks, compound numbers
- **Parentheses**-additions to sentences
- **Dash**-breaks in sentences



PREVIEW

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Try This!

1] Where does the comma in this sentence belong?
My football coach, Mr. Mabb has a son on our team.

- a] after *Mr.*
- b] after *Mabb*
- c] after *son*
- d] after *our*

2] The semicolon in this sentence is used **correctly**.

The United States of America is divided into political units called *states*; in Canada, these units are known as *provinces*.

- a] true
- b] false

3] Which punctuation mark is used to enclose the **titles** of songs, poems, and book chapters?

- a] commas
- b] apostrophes
- c] quotation marks
- d] exclamation points