

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



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Recap

Can you identify these three punctuation marks?

A large, bold black exclamation mark consisting of a vertical bar and a solid black dot below it.

exclamation mark

A large, bold black question mark consisting of a curved hook and a solid black dot below it.

question mark

A single solid black dot.

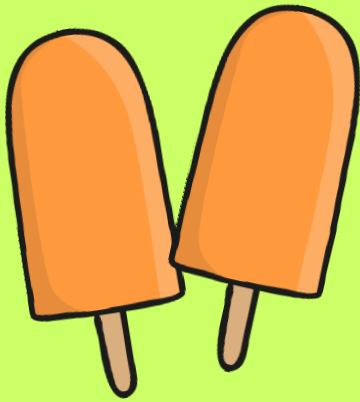
full stop

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.



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.