

Mastering Punctuation with Max and Kit

Learning objective: To consolidate understanding of Class 5 punctuation, including the correct use of colons, semi-colons, brackets, dashes, and commas for clarity and cohesion.

Review these flashcards to master advanced punctuation. Use these rules to improve the flow and clarity of your writing.

What is the primary purpose of a semi-colon?

A semi-colon is used to separate two independent clauses that are closely related in meaning without using a conjunction.

How do you correctly use a colon when introducing a list?

A colon is used to introduce a list after an independent clause has already been stated.

What are parentheses and when should you use them?

Parentheses are curved brackets () used to add extra, non-essential information or an aside to a sentence.

Explain the difference between a dash and a hyphen.

A dash (—) is used to show a break in thought or emphasis, whereas a hyphen (-) is used to join words together, such as in compound adjectives.

When should you use a comma after a fronted adverbial?

A comma is used after a fronted adverbial (a word or phrase that describes where, when, or how an action happens) if it is placed at the start of a sentence.

How can a comma prevent ambiguity in a list?

A comma separates items in a list, ensuring the reader knows where one item ends and the next begins, preventing confusion.

What is the 'Oxford Comma' and is it mandatory?

It is the final comma before the 'and' in a list of three or more items. It is optional but often used to add clarity.

How do you punctuate a relative clause in the middle of a sentence?

A relative clause that adds extra information should be enclosed within a pair of commas, dashes, or brackets.

Justify the use of a dash for dramatic effect.

A dash can be used to create a pause that builds tension or emphasizes a concluding thought, making the writing more impactful.

Max says: 'I have three favourite subjects: maths, history, and art.' Is this correct?

Yes, because the colon introduces a list following a complete independent clause.