

Mastering Punctuation with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To identify and use a range of punctuation marks correctly, including commas, semi-colons, dashes, and brackets, in line with Year 5 expectations.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of punctuation. Read the term on the front, think of the definition, then flip the card to check your answer with Pip the Bookworm!

What is the function of a comma in a list?

A comma is used to separate items in a list to help the reader understand where one item ends and the next begins.

When should you use a semi-colon?

A semi-colon is used to join two independent clauses that are closely related in meaning instead of using a conjunction.

How do you use brackets (parentheses) in a sentence?

Brackets are used to add extra, non-essential information or a brief explanation to a sentence.

What is the purpose of an apostrophe for possession?

An apostrophe shows that something belongs to a person or thing (e.g., Pip's favourite book).

What is a dash used for?

A dash is used to add emphasis, show a sudden break in thought, or to add extra information in a less formal way than brackets.

When do you use a colon?

A colon is used to introduce a list, a definition, or an explanation after an independent clause.

What is an ellipsis used for?

An ellipsis (three dots) is used to show a pause, hesitation, or to indicate that words have been omitted from a quotation.

What are inverted commas used for?

Inverted commas are used to show direct speech or to highlight a specific word or title.

What is a hyphen used for?

A hyphen is used to join words together to create a compound word, such as 'well-behaved' or 'twenty-one'.

What is an apostrophe for omission?

It shows where letters have been removed to create a contraction, such as 'cannot' becoming 'can't'.