

Mastering Punctuation with Max the Monkey

Max the Monkey's Guide: Make Your Writing Jump Off the Page!

- Full stops and capital letters are the foundations of every sentence; they mark exactly where one thought ends and the next begins.
- Apostrophes show either possession (e.g., Max's banana) or omission in contracted words (e.g., don't for do not).
- Commas are used to separate items in a list, or to clarify meaning after a fronted adverbial has been used at the start of a sentence.
- Parentheses (brackets, dashes, or commas) can be used to add extra information to a sentence without changing the main meaning.
- An ellipsis is a row of three dots that can show a pause for dramatic effect or suggest that something has been left out.
- Colons can be used to introduce a list of items, while semicolons help to join two closely related independent clauses together.

Did you know? Did you know? Punctuation acts like a set of traffic signals for your writing! Just as a stop sign tells a driver to pause, a full stop tells the reader to breathe. Without these signals, sentences would crash into one another, making it very difficult for your reader to understand your brilliant ideas.

Key vocabulary: Apostrophe · Parentheses · Relative Clause · Cohesion · Ellipsis · Fronted Adverbial