

Max's Masterclass: The Power of Punctuation

Master the marks that make your sentences shine!

- A semi-colon (;) is used to separate two independent clauses that are closely related in meaning, acting like a bridge between two complete thoughts.
- Use a colon (:) to introduce a list, a quote, or an explanation, signalling that what follows is important information related to the first part of the sentence.
- Parentheses (brackets) are used to tuck extra, non-essential information into a sentence without breaking the flow of the main idea.
- An ellipsis (...) consists of three dots and can be used to show a pause for effect, or to indicate that words have been omitted from a quotation.
- Commas are essential for separating items in a list and for marking off phrases, ensuring your reader knows exactly when to pause for breath.

Did you know? Did you know? The dash (—) is much longer than a hyphen (-). While a hyphen joins words together like 'twenty-one', a dash is used to add extra information or create a dramatic pause in your writing, just like a breath in a spoken sentence!

Key vocabulary: Semi-colon · Colon · Parentheses · Dash · Ellipsis · Relative clause