

A dog howled, ~~braeking~~ the
stillness. Someone was behind me...

Annotations: "breaking" with an arrow pointing to the crossed-out word; "comma" with an arrow pointing to the comma; "ellipsis" with an arrow pointing to the ellipsis; "period" with an arrow pointing to the period.

Basic Punctuation



The **period** (.) is the most essential punctuation mark. It marks the end of a **sentence** – a complete thought.

Read the following piece of text in which all the periods have been removed.

It was a bright sunny day when the children left the house for the mountain walk they each had a backpack with the items they needed for the day these consisted of ham sandwiches with thick slices of bread, chocolate cookies and bottled water they also each had a light windbreaker in case of rain Samuel, as he was the oldest, carried the first aid kit it had bandages and antiseptic lotion in it it made his backpack heavier, but he was bigger than the others so he didn't notice the extra weight

What is the effect of having no periods in this piece of text?



Add in the periods in the correct places. Press on each place in the text where a period should go.

It was a bright sunny day when the children left the house for the mountain walk they each had a rucksack with the items they needed for the day these consisted of ham sandwiches with thick slices of bread, chocolate biscuits and bottled water they also each had a light anorak in case of rain Samuel, as he was the oldest, carried the first aid kit it had bandages and antispetic lotion in it it made his rucksack heavier, but he was bigger than the others so he didn't notice the extra weight



?

solve



Now rewrite the text adding in the punctuation and capital letters in the correct places.

The **question mark** (?) is essential to tell the reader that the sentence is a question rather than a statement.

The **intonation** is raised at the end of a sentence if there is a question mark, so that we know it is a question.

Listen to each of these questions. Can you hear the change in intonation?

Do you know how to do this?



Where are you going?



Could we try doing it my way?



Sentences that end in periods are '**declarative**'. They are statements that 'declare' information.

Sentences that end in question marks are '**interrogative**'.



A way of remembering this is to think of a crime drama where a criminal is 'interrogated' by the police.

To interrogate someone is to ask them lots of questions.

The **exclamation point (!)** is a very expressive punctuation mark.

It can show:

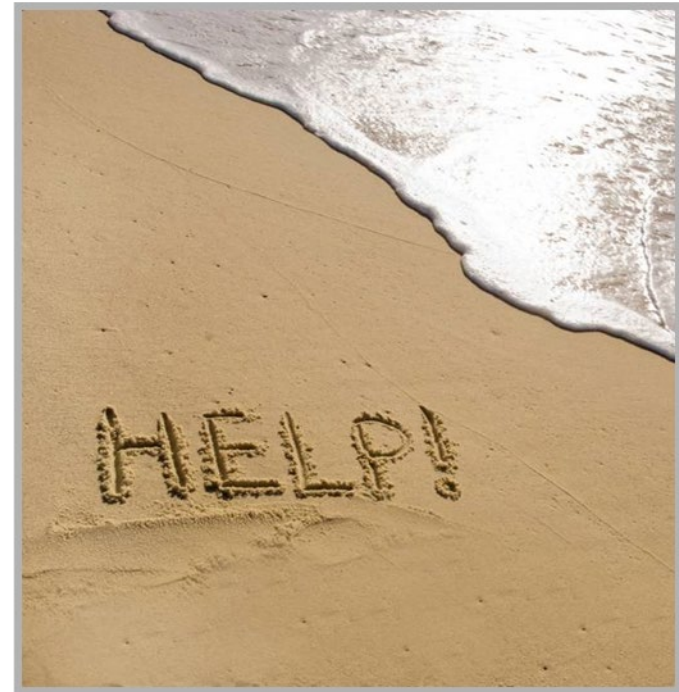
fear → **'Help!'**

anger → **'How dare you!'**

excitement → **'I can't wait!'**

alarm → **'Oh my gosh!'**

Sentences ending in exclamation points are called **'exclamatory'**.



The exclamation point can be used to create different effects in your writing but it is important not to overuse it. Why do you think this is?

Using basic punctuation marks



Choose the correct punctuation marks to complete the text.

I'm so excited ▼ It's my birthday tomorrow and all
my friends are coming over ▼ Can you believe I'm
finally thirteen ▼ We're going to have pizza and
chocolate cake and then we're going to watch all my
favorite DVDs ▼ Everyone is going to sleep over –
it's going to be so much fun, I can't wait ▼
I wonder what my friends will get me for my birthday –
a new DVD ▼ The necklace I said I wanted ▲
Whatever they get me, I'm sure it will be great ▲



solve

