

Punctuation

Intermediate English, Week 6, Winter 2021

Periods, exclamation points, and question marks

- Use a period (.) at the end of normal sentence
 - We have English class four times a week.
- If there is a very strong feeling or emotion, use an exclamation point (!) instead
 - Your cooking is so delicious!
 - I can't believe they did that!
- For questions, finish with a question mark (?)
 - What time is the concert tonight?
 - Do you know how to drive a car?

Quotation marks

- Use quotation marks in sets of two (“ ”)
- Put them around the names of poems, magazine or newspaper articles, short stories, and songs
 - “Billie Jean” is my favorite Michael Jackson song.
 - In high school, we read “The Lady or the Tiger.”
- We also use them when someone is saying something
 - “Don’t drive when it’s snowing,” she said. “It’s dangerous.”
 - “Stop!” yelled the security guard.

Apostrophes

- An apostrophe (') looks like one quotation mark
- We use one when we make contractions
 - Can not → can't I can't speak French.
 - They will → they'll They'll be late for work this afternoon.
- It is also used for a possessive noun ('s)
 - I went to my friend's birthday party on Saturday.
 - Jason's car is really fast!
- If it is a plural possessive, put the apostrophe after the s
 - My parents' house is in the countryside.

Parentheses

- Parentheses are always in a pair ()
- Use them to give extra or additional information
 - The height of Mount Everest is 29,032 feet (8848 meters).
 - The answers are in the back of the book (on page 149).
- Don't get them confused with *brackets* – these are mostly used in math and science
 - Square brackets []
 - Angle brackets < >

Commas

- Commas are complicated to use in English. Even native English speakers use them incorrectly!
- Use commas when making a list with three or more things
 - We had salad, pasta, and fries for lunch.
 - I went to the park with Lucy, Will, and Tim.
- Also use them with cities, states, and countries, and days and years
 - They live in Chicago, Illinois.
 - She was born in Bogota, Colombia.
 - My father was born on December 19, 1960.

Commas

- We also use a comma in compound and complex sentences. (These are sentences with two subjects and two verbs)
 - I was on time for the meeting, but my sister was late.
 - Even though he was feeling sick, he went to work yesterday.
- Put the comma between the two parts of the sentence
 - They wanted pizza, so we ordered it for dinner.
 - If you are tired, you should stay home.

Let's practice! Add the punctuation

- My friends dad made lasagna salad and potatoes for dinner
 - My friend's dad made lasagna, salad, and potatoes for dinner.
- Where are you going asked my cousin
 - "Where are you going?" asked my cousin.
- I think Let it Be is the best Beatles song
 - I think "Let it Be" is the best Beatles song.
- Because my car wont start well be late for school
 - Because my car won't start, we'll be late for school.
- Is his parents house in Paris France
 - Is his parents' house in Paris, France?