

PERIOD, EXCLAMATION POINT, QUESTION MARK

Punctuation that appears at the end of a sentence (or terminal punctuation) signals the reader to stop before progressing to the next thought or sentence (.). It also indicates the degree of emotion the words are attempting to express (!) or shows that a question is being asked (?). A period is also used at the end of an abbreviation. Listed below are examples of the three types of end punctuation and some sample abbreviations.

PERIOD

- Use a period to end a statement or to end an abbreviation.
 She is going to school.
 Dr. Miracle will see you now.
 The area surrounding Mt. St. Helens is desolate.

QUESTION MARK

- Use a question mark to show the end of a direct question.
 Are you going to see the Rose Parade this year?
 When do you begin your new job?
 But Avoid using the question mark for an indirect question.
 He asked if he could take a break.
 She wanted to know if there were any donuts left.

EXCLAMATION POINT

- Use an exclamation point to show that a statement has strong emotion. Do not use multiple exclamation points. One is enough.
 Watch out for that rock!
 Oh no!

END PUNCTUATION EXERCISE I

Directions: If an underlined word is followed by a punctuation error, write the corrected form in the blank to the left. Check your answers on the back of the page.

- _____ 1. My mother and her friends, Mrs Smith and Dr. West, went shopping all afternoon.
- _____ 2. Does Mr. Hanover have the order ready for Seattle, wash. and Los Angeles, Cal. .
- _____ 3. Ricardo asked if he could attend the G. E. D class taught by Prof. Short in Denver, Colo.
 Next summer?
- _____ 4. Good heavens. I haven't had such a fright since that T. W. A. flight to washington, D. C. last
year.
- _____ 5. "Did you know that Dr. Harvey, the historian at MIT, discovered that right and left shoes
 weren't used before the turn of the century?" remarked Mrs. Spence.
- _____ 6. Pres. Olander will attend the meeting in New York, N. Y. after catching the 6:00 AM flight.
- _____ 7. "stop. You're on the wrong track!" the S.P. official yelled at Quigley P. Jones, a local
transient.
- _____ 8. "Is it more wrong to steal from a little old man on a pension than to steal from a big company
 with inc. or ltd after its name?"

- _____ 9. “I am so proud of you!” Mother exclaimed. “Do you plan to enroll at OSU next fall and major in physical ed.?”
- _____ 10. Did you know that Pres. Nicholson has been at Mt. Hood community college for five years.

END PUNCTUATION EXERCISE II

Directions: Correctly punctuate the following sentences with a period, question mark, or exclamation point where needed.

1. Did you know there are more than half a million snowflakes in each cubic foot of snow
2. Is there anything you’d give your life for
3. The track meet was supposed to start at 2:00 PM, but it began at 2:45 PM
4. If you take this action, where will it lead
5. Wow What an absolutely fantastic idea
6. They’re going to the theater tonight, aren’t they
7. Will you meet me at 2:00 PM tomorrow
8. There are only two lasting things we can give our children- roots and wings
9. They discussed colors, fabrics, styles, etc but came to no decision.
10. Fantastic Did you see that stunt

PROGRESS CHECK FOR END PUNCTUATION

Directions: For each sentence below, find the punctuation error and write the correction with the word preceding it in the blank to the left. See the instructor for answers.

- _____ 1. “Are you sure we’re on the right road?” asked Mr. Bradley, the new sheriff for LA County.
- _____ 2. “It has been my experience that a C.P.A. can be very helpful when filing a Fed Income tax form, “ Prof. Higgins replied.
- _____ 3. The Eskimos have more than two dozen names for snow in Nome, Alas.
According to Dr Warren at W.S.U. , an expert on Alaskan culture.
- _____ 4. “Freeze. I’ve got you in my sights!” screamed sgt. Preston.
- _____ 5. What time does Lt. Fuzz want Pvt. James to report for K.P. duty

IT’S YOUR TURN

Direction: Write six sentences of your own illustrating each of the three rules for end punctuation.

Rule 1 1. _____
2. _____

Rule 2 3. _____
4. _____

Rule 3 5. _____

6. _____

ANSWERS TO END PUNCTUATION EXERCISE I

1. Mrs. –Rule 1
2. Cal.? – Rule 2
3. summer. – Rule 2
4. heavens! – Rule 3
5. M. I. T. – Rule 1
6. A. M. – Rule 1
7. “Stop! – Rule 3
8. Ltd. – Rule 1
9. O.S.U – Rule 1
10. Years? – Rule 2

ANSWERS TO END PUNCTUATION EXERCISE II

1. snow? – Rule 2
2. For? – Rule 2
3. P.M. P.M. – Rule 1
4. Lead? – Rule 2
5. Wow! –Rule 3 idea! – Rule 1
6. they? – Rule 2
7. P.M. tomorrow?- Rule 1 & Rule 2
8. wings. – Rule 1
9. etc. – Rule 1
10. Fantastic! Stunt? – Rule 3 & Rule 2