

# Punctuation

Definition	Example
<p><b>Inverted commas</b></p> <p>Punctuation marks used in pairs ( “ ” ) to indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quotes (evidence).</li> <li>• direct speech</li> <li>• words that are defined, that follow certain phrases or that have special meaning.</li> </ul>	<p><i>For direct speech:</i> Janet asked, "Why can't we go today?"</p> <p><i>For quotes:</i> The man claimed that he was “shocked to hear the news”.</p> <p><i>For words that are defined, that follow certain phrases or that have special meaning:</i> 'Buch' is German for book. The book was signed 'Terry Pratchett'. The 'free gift' actually cost us forty pounds.</p>
<p><b>Apostrophes</b></p> <p>Used to show that letters have been left out (contractions) or to show possession (i.e. 'belonging to')</p>	<p><i>Contractions:</i> <i>Is not = isn't                      Could not = couldn't</i></p> <p><i>Showing Possession:</i> <i>With nouns (plural and singular) not ending in an s add 's:</i> the girl's jacket, the children's books</p> <p><i>With plural nouns ending in an s, add only the apostrophe:</i> the guards' duties, the Jones' house</p> <p><i>With singular nouns ending in an s, you can add either 's or an apostrophe alone:</i> the witness's lie or the witness' lie (be consistent)</p>
<p><b>Commas in a list</b></p> <p>Used between a list of three or more words to replace the word <i>and</i> for all but the last instance.</p>	<p>Jenny's favourite subjects are maths, literacy and art. Joe, Evan and Mike were chosen to sing at the service. The giant had a large head, hairy ears and two big, beady eyes.</p>
<p><b>Commas to mark phrases or clauses</b></p>	<p><i>To indicate contrast:</i> The snake was brown, not green, and it was quite small.</p> <p><i>Where the phrase (embedded clause) could be in brackets:</i> The recipe, which we hadn't tried before, is very easy to follow.</p> <p><i>Where the phrase adds relevant information:</i> Mr Hardy, aged 68, ran his first marathon five years ago.</p> <p><i>To mark a subordinate clause:</i> If at first you don't succeed, try again. Though the snake was small, I still feared for my life.</p> <p><i>Introductory or opening phrases:</i> In general, sixty-eight is quite old to run a marathon. On the whole, snakes only attack when riled.</p> <p><i>Conjunctive verbs:</i> Unfortunately, the bear was already in a bad mood and, furthermore, pink wasn't its colour.</p>

<p><b>Brackets (also known as parentheses)</b></p> <p>Used for additional information or explanation.</p>	<p><i>To clarify information:</i> Jamie's bike was red (bright red) with a yellow stripe.</p> <p><i>For asides and comments:</i> The bear was pink (I kid you not).</p> <p><i>To give extra details:</i> His first book (The Colour Of Magic) was written in 1989.</p>
<p><b>Ellipsis</b></p> <p>Used to indicate a pause in speech or at the very end of a sentence so that words trail off into silence (this helps to create suspense).</p>	<p><i>A pause in speech:</i> "The sight was awesome... truly amazing."</p> <p><i>At end of a sentence to create suspense:</i> Mr Daily gritted his teeth, gripped the scalpel tightly in his right hand and slowly advanced...</p>
<p><b>Dash</b></p> <p>Used to show interruption (often in dialogue) or to show repetition.</p>	<p><i>To show interruption:</i> "The girl is my – " "Sister," interrupted Miles, "She looks just like you."</p> <p><i>To show repetition:</i> "You-you monster!" cried the frightened woman. "St-st-stop!" stammered the boy.</p>
<p><b>Colons</b></p> <p>a) Used before a list, summary or quote</p> <p>b) Used to complete a statement of fact</p>	<p><i>Before a list:</i> I could only find three of the ingredients: sugar, flour and coconut.</p> <p><i>Before a summary:</i> To summarise: we found the camp, set up our tent and then the bears attacked.</p> <p><i>Before a line of speech:</i> Tom asked: "May I have another cupcake?"</p> <p><i>Before a statement of fact:</i> There are only three kinds of people: the good, the bad and the ugly.</p>
<p><b>Semi-colons</b></p> <p>Used in place of a connective (conjunction). Shows thoughts on either side of it are balanced and connected. It can also separate words or items within a list.</p>	<p><i>To link two separate sentences that are closely related:</i> The children came home today; they had been away for a week.</p> <p><i>In a list:</i> Star Trek, created by Gene Roddenberry; Babylon 5, by JMS; Buffy, by Joss Whedon; and Farscape, from the Henson Company.</p>