

Punctuation

Punctuation marks are important because they are used to help add emotion and clarity to any kind of writing. They must be incorporated within every sentence so that your readers can clearly understand what you are trying to say.

Question Mark (?)

The question mark is used at the end of a sentence and indicates that a question is being asked. There are two types of questions you can ask. There is the direct question (an obvious question that gets straight to the point) which can only end with a question mark. There is also the indirect question (question or statement that is used when we want to sound polite/a question that is embedded within the sentence) which can either end with a question mark or a period.

Do you like dogs?

Where s the car parked?

My mom had asked me whether or not I wanted to go out to lunch.

I wonder if Daisy would ever tell Tom that she loved Gatsby more.

Could you please tell me where Navy Pier is located ?

Semicolon (;)

The semicolon is used to both separate and combine two independent/main clauses within a sentence. An independent clause (or the main clause) is a clause that can stand by itself as its own sentence. A dependent clause is a clause that provides additional information to the independent clause, but it can't stand on its own as a sentence.

I planted flowers because I like flowers.

Notice how the statement "I planted flowers" can stand on its own as a sentence. It is the independent clause, which means that it has a subject, a verb and is a complete thought. If you look at the statement "because I like flowers," you'll see that it can't stand on its own. This makes the phrase a dependent clause, which means it has a subject and a verb, but it doesn't express a complete thought. It adds information but it doesn't really need to be there. Semicolons are used to only separate or combine two independent clauses (or sentences that have a subject, a verb and a complete thought).

A deer jumped over the bushes in the forest; the wolf followed it closely.

Dina studied really hard in order to get an A on her math test; she didn't like hearing that Marcos didn't even try to study.

