

Chapter 1 : Commas | Punctuation Rules

The Ginger Punctuation Checker helps you correct punctuation quickly and efficiently, analyzing the context of your sentences to correct punctuation mistakes with unmatched accuracy. Don't let incorrect punctuation stand in the way of academic or business success.

Can you imagine a paragraph without any periods or commas? In truth, it would be almost unreadable. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar, and, at minimum, one of them has to appear in every sentence, never mind every paragraph, to make it easily understood. The good news is, with fourteen different punctuation marks to choose from, variety will remain the spice of life. Follow these 6 basic punctuation rules and they will help you to write more clearly and effectively.

Punctuation Must be Parallel When punctuation is parallel it means that interrupting a main clause with a dash or a comma requires the same punctuation at both the beginning and end of the clause. The teenagers, students from Mrs. The teenagers-students from Mrs. This rule also means that you should not use a semicolon to set off just one item in a list. A pair of emdashes might be used if the sentence already contains commas. Similarly, it might be used to mark off information for emphasis. An emdash can also act alone, drawing attention to a modifier or an extra piece of information. Here are a few examples: Sarah hated walking to school-it was all uphill-but she had no choice, she had missed the bus again. For his birthday, Mark received a sweater, a jacket, a savings bond-and a new bike! Pizza, chocolate, and ice cream-these are my favorite foods.

A Colon Appears at the End of a Main Clause If you have trouble deciding when to use a colon in your writing, it helps to ask yourself if a period or question mark would be appropriate in the same location. If the sentence is already complete, you may use a colon to add a list, elaboration, or restatement. I have three brothers: David, Kent, and Jacob. I have decided not to move to San Francisco: I have been offered a better job in Milwaukee.

A Semicolon is Used for Equal Emphasis In a compound sentence that has no coordinating conjunction, a semicolon can join related independent clauses that are of equal importance. Sarah answered my question abruptly; she seemed preoccupied. A semicolon can also be used before a conjunctive adverb joining two clauses in a compound sentence. The restaurant was very crowded; however, the waitress took our order immediately.

Parentheses Show Related, Nonessential Elements Parentheses can be used to show elements in a sentence that are related but not necessary to understand the meaning of the sentence. Parentheses can be replaced by commas in most cases, although the use of parentheses tends to de-emphasize a piece of information. My family visited several countries Italy, France, Portugal, and Spain on our vacation last year. If the information inside the parentheses forms a complete sentence within the larger sentence, no punctuation is necessary. The snow April saw it when she passed the window completely covered the trees.

Apostrophes Show Possession or Indicate an Omission An apostrophe is used to show possession or ownership. An apostrophe and an -s should be added to singular possessive nouns, plural possessive nouns that do not end in -s, and singular possessive nouns that end in -s. Only an apostrophe should be used when showing possession or ownership for a plural possessive noun that ends in -s. Be it commas, semicolons or apostrophes that troubles you, YourDictionary has a wealth of in-depth punctuation knowledge right at your fingertips. Your paragraphs are about to be bulked up with colons, emdashes, and parentheses the likes this world has never seen. YourDictionary definition and usage example.

Chapter 2 : The Punctuation Guide

Punctuation Rules. Now that you've got the basic punctuation rules under your belt you're ready to tackle your problem areas. Be it commas, semicolons or apostrophes that troubles you, YourDictionary has a wealth of in-depth punctuation knowledge right at your fingertips.

Contact Commas Commas and periods are the most frequently used punctuation marks. Use commas to separate words and word groups in a simple series of three or more items. My estate goes to my husband, son, daughter-in-law, and nephew. When the last comma in a series comes before and or or after daughter-in-law in the above example , it is known as the Oxford comma. However, omission of the Oxford comma can sometimes lead to misunderstandings. We had coffee, cheese and crackers and grapes. Adding a comma after crackers makes it clear that cheese and crackers represents one dish. In cases like this, clarity demands the Oxford comma. We had coffee, cheese and crackers, and grapes. Fiction and nonfiction books generally prefer the Oxford comma. Writers must decide Oxford or no Oxford and not switch back and forth, except when omitting the Oxford comma could cause confusion as in the cheese and crackers example. Use a comma to separate two adjectives when the order of the adjectives is interchangeable. He is a strong, healthy man. We could also say healthy, strong man. We stayed at an expensive summer resort. We would not say summer expensive resort, so no comma. Another way to determine if a comma is needed is to mentally put and between the two adjectives. If the result still makes sense, add the comma. In the examples above, a strong and healthy man makes sense, but an expensive and summer resort does not. Many inexperienced writers run two independent clauses together by using a comma instead of a period. This results in the dreaded run-on sentence or, more technically, a comma splice. He walked all the way home, he shut the door. There are several simple remedies: He walked all the way home. He shut the door. After he walked all the way home, he shut the door. He walked all the way home, and he shut the door. In sentences where two independent clauses are joined by connectors such as and, or, but, etc. He walked all the way home and he shut the door. Some writers omit the comma if the clauses are both quite short: I paint and he writes. If the subject does not appear in front of the second verb, a comma is generally unnecessary. He thought quickly but still did not answer correctly. But sometimes a comma in this situation is necessary to avoid confusion. I saw that she was busy and prepared to leave. I saw that she was busy, and prepared to leave. Without a comma, the reader is liable to think that "she" was the one who was prepared to leave. When starting a sentence with a dependent clause , use a comma after it. If you are not sure about this, let me know now. Follow the same policy with introductory phrases. Having finally arrived in town, we went shopping. However, if the introductory phrase is clear and brief three or four words , the comma is optional. When in town we go shopping. But always add a comma if it would avoid confusion. Last Sunday, evening classes were canceled. The comma prevents a misreading. When an introductory phrase begins with a preposition, a comma may not be necessary even if the phrase contains more than three or four words. Into the sparkling crystal ball he gazed. If such a phrase contains more than one preposition, a comma may be used unless a verb immediately follows the phrase. A comma is usually unnecessary when the sentence starts with an independent clause followed by a dependent clause. Let me know now if you are not sure about this. Use commas to set off nonessential words, clauses, and phrases see Who, That, Which , Rule 2b. Jill who is my sister shut the door. Jill, who is my sister, shut the door. The man knowing it was late hurried home. The man, knowing it was late, hurried home. In the preceding examples, note the comma after sister and late. Nonessential words, clauses, and phrases that occur midsentence must be enclosed by commas. The closing comma is called an appositive comma. Many writers forget to add this important comma. Following are two instances of the need for an appositive comma with one or more nouns. My best friend, Joe arrived. My best friend, Joe, arrived. The three items, a book, a pen, and paper were on the table. The three items, a book, a pen, and paper, were on the table. If something or someone is sufficiently identified, the description that follows is considered nonessential and should be surrounded by commas. Freddy, who has a limp, was in an auto accident. If we already know which Freddy is meant, the description is not essential. The boy who has a limp was in an auto accident. We do not know

which boy is meant without further description; therefore, no commas are used. This leads to a persistent problem. Look at the following sentence: My brother Bill is here. My brother, Bill, is here. Careful writers and readers understand that the first sentence means I have more than one brother. The commas in the second sentence mean that Bill is my only brother. In the first sentence, Bill is essential information: This is why no commas enclose Bill. In the second sentence, Bill is nonessential information—“whom else but Bill could I mean? Comma misuse is nothing to take lightly. It can lead to a train wreck like this: Because of the commas, that sentence states that Twain wrote only one book. In fact, he wrote more than two dozen of them. Use a comma after certain words that introduce a sentence, such as well, yes, why, hello, hey, etc. Use commas to set off expressions that interrupt the sentence flow nevertheless, after all, by the way, on the other hand, however, etc. I am, by the way, very nervous about this. Use commas to set off the name, nickname, term of endearment, or title of a person directly addressed. Will you, Aisha, do that assignment for me? Yes, old friend, I will. Use a comma to separate the day of the month from the year, and—“what most people forget! No comma is necessary for just the month and year. It was in a June article. Use a comma to separate a city from its state, and remember to put one after the state, also. Martin Luther King, Jr. This comma is no longer considered mandatory. However, if a comma does precede Sr. Similarly, use commas to enclose degrees or titles used with names. Use commas to introduce or interrupt direct quotations. If the quotation comes before he said, she wrote, they reported, Dana insisted, or a similar attribution, end the quoted material with a comma, even if it is only one word.

Chapter 3 : grammar NOW! Grammar, punctuation, proofreading, and writing help

The #1 Grammar and Punctuation Resources Website - English grammar rules, capitalization, punctuation, whom, whomever, whoever, writing numbers, apostrophe, and The Blue Book of Grammar.

The ProWritingAid Blog From quick lessons on commonly misspelled words to in-depth examinations of pleonasms , the ProWritingAid blog is a great place to dive into the intricacies of the English language. Writing Forward The Writing Forward blog , created by a passionate writer, offers tons of posts on creative writing, grammar and more. The "Grammar Tips" section will walk you through tons of pesky grammar rules, from whether or not you can end a sentence with a preposition to figuring out subject-verb agreement. Articles on Grammar Girl cover all sorts of topics such as the weird history of oxymorons or the meaning of the phrase "in the doldrums" so you can visit to not only brush up on your grammar skills, but get a lesson in English language history. Daily Grammar A self-described "fun, convenient way to learn grammar," Daily Grammar is a comprehensive teaching tool for anyone needing to polish up their English grammar skills. Try it for free! Daily Grammar is more a course curriculum than a blog, with over free lessons and over 80 free quizzes for you to learn and then test your knowledge. You can visit the site to access topics or have them delivered to your inbox through their complimentary email service. Lousy Writer focuses on how to communicate effectively by breaking down word usages and sentence construction into clear, easy-to-understand tips. Of particular use on Lousy Writer are the cheat sheets, which help you understand tricky concepts like possessive nouns or homonyms. These cheat sheets are great refreshers on difficult topics for English language speakers and English language learners alike. Sponsored by Purdue University, this website is a great resource for people looking to teach and learn. In addition to their grammar lessons, you can find formatting guides for styles such as MLA and APA, as well as suggestions on how to avoid plagiarism in your work. FluentU One of the best ways to learn English grammar is to hear English being spoken aloud. While FluentU does have a subscription fee, you can access a limited free trial to see if you like the service and find it useful before deciding to commit to pay. English Grammar Are you one of those people who simply loves learning from a textbook? If so, English Grammar is the site for you! Playing games is one of the best ways to improve your understanding and mastery of concepts, and grammar is no exception! If your eyes are going a bit crossed after studying one of the more serious lessons, pop on over to Grammar Ninja for an exciting, refreshing take on the same concepts. The free resources listed in this article will help you become a stronger writer in no time. Have we missed one of your favorite sites? Tell us in the comments! What are you waiting for? Hayley Milliman Marketing and Customer Support Ninja Hayley is a former teacher turned writer who works for ProWritingAid as a marketing and customer support associate.

Chapter 4 : The 10 Best Websites to Improve Your Grammar

Punctuation is used to create sense, clarity and stress in sentences. You use punctuation marks to structure and organise your writing. He needs some help!

I do hope it could help me. Hi Kimberlin, You are not the only person who has trouble with punctuation. We all make mistakes but it is good to learn from them. Whenever I answer grammar questions I always refer to it to double check. We are in luck too because there is a section on punctuation pages It does a general breakdown of the basic punctuation marks and explains how and when to use them. I think this book might be quite helpful for you. My suggestion would be to get a book that explains the punctuations marks in a simple manner and to study the usage a bit. It is a little bit boring but after studying you can do some blogging to practice. After a while punctuation should come naturally. Here are a couple of explanations from my copy of,. These three forms of punctuation are used to divide and close sentences. The sentence that follows is always started with a capital letter. Examples I like teaching English. It is very rewarding. Do you like learning English? What a wonderful question! You need to write more. Here are five ways to improve your pronunciations: How to learn English: Practical English Usage also explains semi colons, commas, dashes, quotation marks, and apostrophes. I hope that helps you with your question. Have a wonderful day! Would you like an answer without waiting? You can answer all your grammar questions yourself and in the comfort of your own home? I can honestly say that this grammar reference guide is the best I have ever used and I use it daily answering all of your grammar questions; including this question. Why wait for my answer? When the answer is just a page number away? Get this book now and start solving your grammar questions! Click on the image above to buy the book safely and quickly through Amazon.

Chapter 5 : Free Online Grammar Checker ~ Grammar www.nxgvision.com

Punctuation is the system of symbols we use to separate parts of sentences to make their meaning clear. A famous example is "A panda eats shoots and leaves." Without punctuation, this sentence means the subject eats plant growths.

Share via Email The ability to punctuate correctly will help your students avoid embarrassing pitfalls. These resources offer a ray of hope in the battle to help children cut the chaos in their writing and translate the gems inside their head from a jumbled mess to perfectly manicured prose. Many children and adults find using apostrophes tricky. Learn how to teach them the fun way with the apostrophe song and accompanying lyrics. Last year Mr D aka Matthew Dix wrote the catchy Grammar Dance to help his year 6 students get through their spelling, punctuation and grammar Spag tests. Here are the lyrics to learn with your class. If you want to practise for the Spag test, check out this set of questions. Thanks to teacher Joseph Donovan for sharing his succinct punctuation card. Cheers to the team at primaryclass. This interactive activity on the full stop does a great job of demonstrating the point of this most masterful of punctuation marks. This lesson on reading aloud helps young students to discover the point of punctuation, while Speech marks is a great introduction for year 2 students. For key stage 2 students, Using punctuation is a really useful interactive and further punctuation-mark practice exercises can be found for semicolons , colons , hyphens and dashes and commas. The interactive activity will help students use punctuation correctly, particularly at boundaries between sentences and clauses. For key stage 4 students who need to brush up, find Grammar trouble spots. Special educational needs SEN specialist Matt Grant, who blogs at HumansNotRobots , has shared a lovely set of resources designed to help SEN students develop basic literacy skills, including punctuation. Find English skillsbuilder guidance for an introduction to the series, then check out stage one , stage two and stage three. There are some great ideas for punctuation activities in the booklets. Cover your classroom in commas with this punctuation display banner from Twinkl , and check out this poster. It can be frustrating for teachers when students do know how to use punctuation, but fail to check their work. This Keep calm and check your punctuation poster is the perfect reminder. The Punctuation pyramid makes another great display to help children with their independent writing. Filling in the gaps on this Missing punctuation resource is a great way to hammer home the message further. And finally for teachers wishing to test the strength of their own punctuation skills, do take our Grammar and punctuation quiz. This content is brought to you by Guardian Professional. Looking for your next role? Take a look at Guardian jobs for schools for thousands of the latest teaching, leadership and support jobs.

Chapter 6 : Grammar Checker | Online Spell Checker | Virtual Writing Tutor

They check their errors with effective punctuation checker tools. To make things easier, I am sharing a list of some of the best online punctuation checker tools in this post.

The apostrophe is used to form possessives e. The apostrophe is not used to form most plurals e. There are three exceptions: All other punctuation marks go outside the quotation marks, unless they are part of the material being quoted. Know how to punctuate with parentheses When a parenthetical element is included at the end of a larger sentence, the terminal punctuation for the larger sentence goes outside the closing parenthesis. When a parenthetical sentence exists on its own, the terminal punctuation goes inside the closing parenthesis. She nonchalantly told us she would be spending her birthday in Venice Italy, not California. Use a hyphen for compound adjectives When two or more words collectively serve as an adjective before the word they are modifying, those words should normally be hyphenated. The major exception is when the first such word is an adverb ending in -ly. The hastily arranged meeting came on the heels of less-than-stellar earnings. Distinguish between the colon and the semicolon The colon and the semicolon can both be used to connect two independent clauses. When the second clause expands on or explains the first, use a colon. When the clauses are merely related, but the second does not follow from the first, use a semicolon. Only a third of Americans have a passport; the majority of Canadians have a passport. Only a third of Americans have a passport: Avoid multiple punctuation at the end of a sentence Never end a sentence with a question mark or exclamation point followed by a period. If a sentence ends with a period that is part of an abbreviation, do not add a second period. Use a colon to introduce a list only when the introductory text is a complete sentence Not all lists should be introduced with a colon. The general rule is that if the introductory text can stand as a grammatically complete sentence, use a colon; otherwise, do not. Please bring the following items: Please bring a flashlight, a comfortable pair of hiking boots, and a jacket. Please bring the typical evening hiking gear: Use commas to indicate nonessential information If explanatory matter can be omitted without changing the general meaning of the sentence, it should be set off with commas. If the explanatory matter is essential to the meaning of the sentence, do not set it off with commas. The novelist Don DeLillo seldom gives interviews. The novelist, Don DeLillo, seldom gives interviews. The identity of the specific novelist is essential to the meaning of the sentence. Otherwise, there is nothing to indicate which of the multitude of novelists is being referred to. America has only one first president. Identifying him by name is not essential to the meaning of the sentence. Use a dictionary Is it U. Though these examples implicate punctuation marks the use or omission of periods, hyphens, or apostrophes , the correct form can be easily determined with a good dictionary. If in doubt, rewrite The easiest way to solve a vexing punctuation problem is to avoid it. Perhaps as more than one sentence.

Chapter 7 : Free Online Punctuation Check

To use English punctuation correctly, remember to always capitalize the first letter of a sentence, as well as the names of specific people, places, and things. Also, make sure you end a sentence with a period unless the sentence is a question, in which case you should end it with a question mark.

Chapter 8 : 4th Grade Punctuation Worksheets & Free Printables | www.nxgvision.com

Learn how to improve your punctuation with these English skills resources, videos and games designed for adults who want to improve their literacy skills, as well as basic skills tutors and teachers.

Chapter 9 : 6 Basic Punctuation Rules

This instant free Grammar Checker online tool is aimed to facilitate the process of writing a good paper, by means of

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checking its grammar - all ins and outs. Be sure that this system will make you more confident in your paper and will help you get the highest grade.