ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Periods, question marks, and exclamation marks

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you show a reader whether you are telling them something, asking them something, or shouting with excitement. A period ends a statement, a question mark turns it into a question, and an exclamation mark shows strong feeling. The same words can mean three different things depending on which mark ends them, and a text message is easy to misread when the mark is wrong. Getting the ending right is what makes your tone clear on the page.



Rule

A sentence that tells something ends with a period.

A sentence that asks something ends with a question mark. A sentence that shows strong feeling ends with an exclamation mark.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Choose the end mark for: The cat is black

SOLUTION

Read the sentence: it tells something, it does not ask anything.

Telling sentences take a period at the end.

So: The cat is black.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Choose the end mark for: Where is the cat

SOLUTION

Read the sentence: it asks where the cat is.

Asking sentences take a question mark at the end.

So: Where is the cat?

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Practice questions

1 Your friend texts: What a big dog. Choose the end mark it needs.

- A .
- B ?
- C !

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2 Your diary says: I like ice cream. Choose the end mark it needs.

- A .
- B ?
- C !

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3 **A note asks: Can you help me. Choose the end mark it needs.**

A .

B ?

C !

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4 **Your friend shouts a warning: Stop that is dangerous. Choose the end mark it needs.**

A .

B ?

C !

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5 A poster says: The sun is hot. Choose the end mark it needs.

- **A** .
- **B** ?
- **C** !

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6 A classmate asks: How old are you. Choose the end mark it needs.

- **A** .
- **B** ?
- **C** !

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7 The crowd cheers: What a great game. Choose the end mark it needs.

- A .
- B ?
- C !

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8 A lost poster asks: Where is my book. Choose the end mark it needs.

- A .
- B ?
- C !

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9 A birthday card says: I am so happy. Choose the end mark it needs.

- A .
- B ?
- C !

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10 A report says: Sam can swim. Choose the end mark it needs.

- A .
- B ?
- C !

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ANSWER KEY

1. !

2. .

3. ?

4. !

5. .

6. ?

7. !

8. ?

9. !

10. .

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