

# English Punctuation Marks

Punctuation Name	Symbol	Usage	Punctuation Name	Symbol	Usage
<b>Period</b>	.	Used to indicate the end of a declarative sentence or in abbreviations.	<b>Dash</b>	—	Used to indicate a break in thought, add emphasis, or set off a list or explanation that is not essential to the sentence.
<b>Comma</b>	,	Used to separate items in a list, set off introductory elements, separate clauses, and set off non-essential information.	<b>Hyphen</b>	-	Used to join words together in compound words or to split a word at the end of a line.
<b>Question Mark</b>	?	Used at the end of a direct question.	<b>Ellipsis</b>	...	Used to indicate a pause, an unfinished thought, or the omission of words.
<b>Exclamation Point</b>	!	Used to indicate strong feelings, shouting, or to show emphasis.	<b>Slash</b>	/	Used to indicate alternatives, fractions, and sometimes to separate lines in a poem.
<b>Colon</b>	:	Used to introduce a list, a quote, an explanation, or a definition.	<b>Parentheses</b>	( )	Used to enclose additional information or clarifications.
<b>Semicolon</b>	;	Used to link closely related independent clauses and to separate items in a complex list.	<b>Brackets</b>	[ ]	Used to add information or clarification within quoted material.
<b>Apostrophe</b>	'	Used to show possession or to form contractions.	<b>Quotation Marks</b>	“ ”	Used to indicate direct speech, a quotation, or the title of a short work like an article or a poem.