

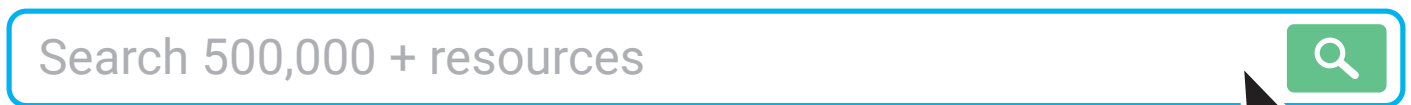
# Year 1 Punctuation:

## A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to punctuation can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when learning about punctuation together, either as part of homework, or if you decide to give your child some extra support.

Whether your child is only just beginning to explore using full stops at the end of sentences or they are moving on to question marks and exclamation marks, you will find a step that matches where your child is at as well as some ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

# Punctuation

## What Punctuation Is Taught in Year 1?

In year 1, children are taught to identify different types of sentences and place the correct punctuation at the end of each sentence. All their sentences should end with either a **full stop**, a **question mark** or an **exclamation mark**.

They are also taught to recognise the difference between **capital letters** and lower case letters, and to begin to use capital letters correctly in their work.

## Understanding Capital Letters

From a young age, children are taught to recognise both the lower case and capital forms of letters. Capital letters differ from their lower case counterparts in size and sometimes shape. For example, A, B, Q and R are different to their lower case versions, a, b, q and r.

Capital letters are used for:

- proper nouns (the names of people, places, days of the week and months);
- the personal pronoun 'I';
- the start of a sentence.

During year 1, children will continue to develop their understanding of lower case letters and capital letters. They will be taught the rules for when to use capital letters and will complete lots of activities to practise doing this (including being encouraged to use them in their own independent writing).

## Using Punctuation

Before being able to choose which punctuation mark to place at the end of a sentence (. ! or ?), a child must first know what a sentence is and what different types of sentences there are.

## What Is a Sentence?

A sentence is one word, or a group of words, that makes grammatical sense by itself. For example:

I went to the shop.

What did you buy from the shop?

Stop!

Cut the onion into small pieces.

Your child will be encouraged to practise saying sentences aloud before writing them down when working at school. This can help them identify where the end of a sentence is. When reading at home, you can help your child identify sentences by looking at the punctuation, signaling the end of each sentence.

## What Are the Different Types of Sentences?

There are four types of sentences which your child will be taught in year 1. These sentence types are:

**Statements:** Most sentences that we write and read are statement sentences. They are used to state information and always end with a full stop. For example:

I have a dog.

My favourite food is pizza.

Excitedly, Hansel and Gretel ran up to the delicious house.

**Commands:** These sentences are used to give instructions. They involve telling others what to do and start with an imperative (bossy) verb. They can end with a full stop or an exclamation mark. For example:

Stop!

Place the butter into a bowl and beat.

Attach the paper with glue.

**Questions:** These sentences ask questions and always end with a question mark. They often start with an interrogative (question) word such as what, when, where, who, which etc.

What did you do in class today?

How many animals did you see at the zoo?

Who won the race?

**Exclamations:** These sentences express strong emotions and feelings and end with an exclamation mark, for example:

The lion's escaped!

Surprise!

Run for your lives!



Exclamation sentences can also start with 'what' or 'how'. Children are taught to identify the difference between these exclamatory sentences starting with 'what' and 'how' and questions which start with the same words. For example:

What big ears you have!

How wonderful!

This can be tricky for younger children so they are given lots of exposure to these types of sentences in school to ensure they use the correct punctuation.

As well as using the resources in this category and the keyword searches to help your child with capital letters, below are a few ideas for games and activities to help your child learn how to use capital letters, both in their spoken language and in their writing.

### Read, Read, Read!

Sharing books together is the most powerful way for children to learn about language, spelling, grammar and punctuation. As you read together, look at the punctuation at the end of sentences and discuss why it is used.

### Make Punctuation Lolly Sticks

Using lolly sticks, draw the symbol for a full stop, question marks and exclamation mark on each one (. ? !). As you say a sentence from your child's book, as them to hold up the lolly stick with the punctuation that should come at the end of the sentence you have said.

### Make a Capital Letter Collection

As you share a book, look for proper nouns that start with capital letters (i.e. names of people, places, days and months). Write them on a sticky note or pin them to a note board. Discuss with your child why they start with a capital letter to help reinforce their understanding of the rules.

### Do a Sentence Hunt

Give your child the challenge of finding a certain type of sentence. Write the chosen punctuation type at the top of a sheet of paper. Challenge your child to find example sentences that end in that punctuation in their books or around the house and write them on the sheet. You could set them a target (such as five).



# Steps to Using the Correct Punctuation

## Step 1

### Using Full Stops

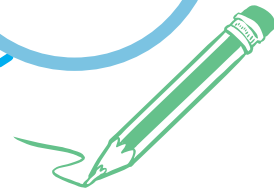
By year 1, your child will be developing an awareness of full stops and their usage. However, they will need to continue to consolidate this knowledge so they can use full stops in their independent writing. Try this activity to help your child practise ordering words in a sentence with a full stop at the end.



### Identifying Different Types of Sentences

During year 1, your child will be introduced to different sentence types and what punctuation should be placed at the end of each one ( . ? ! ). At home, highlight different sentence types with your child when reading together. Select a sentence and ask them to identify if it is a question, statement, exclamation or command. This activity sheet could be used at home to help your child identify different sentence types and decide which punctuation should be placed at the end.

## Step 2

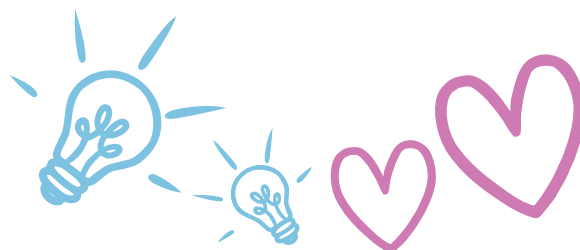


## Step 3

### Using Full Stops, Question Marks and Exclamation

#### Marks Independently

Once your child has been taught to use question marks, exclamation marks and full stops, they will continue to do activities to practise using them correctly. Teachers will also model using the different punctuation marks when doing guided or shared writing in class. You can support your child at home when writing together by giving them ideas for different sentence types and discussing what punctuation should be used and why. At home, you could try using pictures as prompts to help your child think of sentences independently to describe a picture. Encourage them to think of exclamation and question sentences too that they can include for each picture such as 'How would they get back up?' or 'It was terrible!'.



# Steps to Using Capital Letters

## Step 1

### Identifying and Writing Capital Letters

In year 1, your child will develop their awareness of capital letters and lower case letters. During this year, they will consolidate their knowledge of capital letter formation and when to use them. At home, try using visual prompts to help them practise these letters. Encourage your child to write the letters in the air with their finger or use a food tray and sand to make a sand tray - place some sand on the tray to cover the surface. Gently shake the sand to make a smooth surface. Then, say a letter and ask your child to write the letter in the sand. Do this for a variety of capital letters.



### Using Capital Letters for Proper Nouns and the Pronoun 'I'

During lessons, your child will be encouraged to use capital letters for proper nouns. A proper noun is a naming word for an individual person, place or organization (e.g. Julie, John, London, Twinkl, Miss Jones). Proper nouns should always start with a capital letter. Proper nouns also include days of the week and months. They are different to common nouns which are words for everyday animals, places, things or ideas. They are used to name general items rather than specific ones (e.g. boy, girl, pen, table, love, gate, house, field). This worksheet can help your child identify which nouns are common and which are proper, starting with a capital letter.

## Step 2



## Step 3

### Using Capital Letters in Sentences

In school, your child will be taught to start each sentence with a capital letter as well as using them for proper nouns and the pronoun 'I'. As there is so much for children to remember when they begin to write independently, it can take lots of practice to get this right. Unscrambling the sentences in this activity can help your child practise writing sentences correctly with capital letters at the start.

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Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!