

Year 5 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. The 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. In this guide, you will find a step that matches your child's level as well as ideas for helping your child learn about punctuation.

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.

using commas to clarify meaning



Click here



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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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 5?

In year 5, your child will continue to practise the punctuation they learnt to use in previous years. By year 5, children should be able to use:

- capital letters for the start of sentences, proper nouns and the pronoun 'I';
- full stops, question marks and exclamation marks at the end of sentences;
- commas in lists and after fronted adverbials;
- inverted commas to show direct speech with other punctuation;
- apostrophes for contracted words (e.g. I will = I'll) and for possession with singular and plural nouns (e.g. Will's money).

If you would like to help your child revise and practise year 4 punctuation, you could try the activities outlined in these **Year 4 SPaG Activity Mats** at home. Throughout year 5, your child should use the above punctuation with increasing accuracy within their writing. They will also be introduced to using:

- brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis;
- commas to clarify meaning and avoid ambiguity.

In this guide, you will find a step for each of the new punctuation introduced in year 5. However, these steps aren't sequential; therefore, you can do them in any order at home. It may be best to find out what your child is currently learning (or has learnt already) in class to ensure your support matches their school work.

As well as using the resources in this category and the keyword searches to help your child with year 5 punctuation, a few ideas for games and activities to help your child practise at home are described below.

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, identify examples of brackets, dashes and commas, and discuss how they are used to aid the reader.

Read All About It!

Give your child an old magazine and ask them to find and highlight examples of parenthesis being used in the articles. Give them a set time frame to see if they can find two or three examples. Once finished, you could discuss with your child why the writer has used parenthesis in each example.

Where Is It?

On strips of paper, write some sentences about famous sites of interests, for example, Snowdonia has a historic mountain railway. Ask your child to cut each example sentence in half (just after the name of the famous place). Provide your child with blank slips of paper and ask them to write in brackets where each famous place is, for example in north Wales. Then, ask your child to stick the sentence back together with the parenthesis i.e. Snowdonia (in north Wales) has a historic mountain railway. You can change the theme of the parenthesis each time you do this, for example, by adding descriptions or dates to the brackets.

What's the Difference?

Write down two examples of the same sentence for your child, one with and one without commas. The sentences should have different meanings with and without the comma.

For example:

Let's eat Grandma.

Let's eat, Grandma.

See if your child can draw a diagram to show the difference in meaning in each sentence. This is a fun way to show them how important commas can be to clarify meaning.

Step 1

Using Parenthesis with Brackets, Dashes or Commas

Parenthesis is when a word or phrase is inserted into the sentence to give extra information about a noun. This is sometimes also known as an embedded relative clause. For example:

Susie likes to play rugby at school.

Susie, who is very sporty, likes to play rugby at school.

A parenthesis can be separated from the rest of the sentence by commas, dashes or brackets (all called parentheses). When choosing whether to use commas, dashes or brackets, focus on the level of importance given to the additional information in the middle of the sentence.

- Use brackets when the parenthesis is a bit of additional information that is non-essential for the reader. For example: Tim (who had travelled all the way from America) gave his mum her birthday gift.
- Use commas when the information is of (roughly) equal priority to other facts in the article and is something you'd like your reader to note and know. For example: Tim, who had travelled all the way from America, gave his mum her birthday gift.
- Use dashes when you want to emphasise the information, for some reason. For example: Tim - who had travelled all the way from America - gave his mum her birthday gift.

Step 2

Using Commas to Clarify Meaning and Avoid Ambiguity

In year 5, children are taught how commas can affect the meaning of a sentence and practise placing them correctly in a sentence to avoid ambiguity. For example, look at these two sentences below:

Abby enjoys eating kittens and clothes.

Abby enjoys eating, kittens and clothes.

In the first sentence, it appears that Abby likes to eat kittens and clothes. However, by placing the comma in the second example, it is clear that eating is one of three separate things that Abby likes.

Have a look at these sentences for further examples of how commas can clarify meanings in a sentence.

Example 1:

After they left Edmund, Kate and Jimmy went to the cinema.

After they left, Edmund, Kate and Jimmy went to the cinema.

Example 4:

The police chased the robber in a fast car.

The police chased the robber, in a fast car.

In year 5, children will discuss how commas can change the meaning of a sentence and help them to avoid ambiguity (unclear meaning) in their own writing.

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



twinkl
Go!



twinkl
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

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.



twinkl
imagine

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

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.



twinkl
KIDS' TV

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!