

Punctuation

Booster 2: End-of-sentence markers

Key learning

Sentences always finish with an end-of-sentence marker. There are three end-of-sentence markers: a full stop, a question mark and an exclamation mark.

An 'exclamation' is a sudden expression of surprise, pain or strong emotion.

The most common way to end a sentence is to use a full stop. A sentence that ends in a full stop is called a statement.

Notice that there is a full stop in the lower part of the other two punctuation marks – the question mark (?) and the exclamation mark (!).

Do not use more than one end-of-sentence marker for each sentence.

Worked example:

1. Tick all the boxes that apply.
2. Correct each sentence.

	Too many exclamation marks	Too many question marks	Wrong end-of-sentence marker (.) (?) (!)
I can't wait until we go on holiday!!??			
Shall we visit the castle or go to the beach!!!			
The guidebook says the castle was built in 1250??			

Answers:

	Too many exclamation marks	Too many question marks	Wrong end-of-sentence marker (.) (?) (!)
I can't wait until we go on holiday!!??	✓	✓	✓
Correct sentence: I can't wait until we go on holiday!			? is not needed. This is not a question. You only need one exclamation mark.
Shall we visit the castle or go to the beach!!!	✓		✓
Correct sentence: Shall we visit the castle or go to the beach?			! is not needed. This is a question, not an exclamation. You never need more than one end-of-sentence marker.
The guidebook says the castle was built in 1250??		✓	✓
Correct sentence: The guidebook says the castle was built in 1250.			?? not needed. This is a statement and needs a full stop.

Your turn:

Read this email.

Change the incorrect end-of-sentence markers and remove any that are unnecessary.

From: Ahmed
To: Sacha, Tom
Subject: Our camping trip this weekend
Cc: Millie
Message: Hi Sacha, Are we still going camping this weekend!!! The weather forecast looks terrible? Although Millie and I are a bit unsure, we've paid for the campsite now. It would be a waste not to go. We've also bought quite a lot of supplies? Are you prepared to risk it. Let us know by tonight!! See you soon, Ahmed.