

# Year 6 - Punctuation



## Inverted commas

Inverted commas are used to punctuate **direct speech**.

“How wonderful to see you!”  
exclaimed Dad.

## Apostrophes

Apostrophes are used for omission (missing out letters) or possession (showing belonging).

Can not                      can't  
The cat belongs to Jim.  
It is Jim's cat.

## Exclamation Marks

Exclamation marks mark the end of an exclamation.

Ouch! That hurts!  
What big ears you have!

## Commas

Commas separate words in a list. These might be **adjectives** or a list of objects.

The **mean, grumpy** ogre.  
I packed socks, pants, shorts and a t-shirt in my suitcase.

Commas also separate an independent clause from a **subordinate clause**.

**When it is sunny**, I like to go outside.  
**If it is hot**, I will put on a hat.

Commas also mark a fronted adverbial of **time, reason, manner** or **place**.

**Tomorrow**, it will be hot.  
**Because of the snow**, we stayed inside.  
**With a piercing stare**, she bolted forward.  
**In the heart of the jungle**, the jaguar waited for it's prey.

## Question Marks

Question marks mark the end of a question.

Where is it?  
What's the time?



## Hyphens

Hyphens join words together to make them compound words.  
**right-handed**

I am **right-handed** and my friend is **left-handed**.

## Semi-colons

Semi-colons link related independent clauses. They often replace **co-ordinating conjunctions**.

I ordered a drink **and** my friend asked for a pizza.  
I ordered a drink; my friend asked for a pizza.

## Colons and dashes

Colons and dashes both add detail and sum up a phrase or clause. A colon is more formal than a dash.

There were two options: fight or run.  
There was no escape – the door was locked.

## Full stops

Full stops mark the end of a sentence.

I like school.  
The cat has black fur.

## Parentheses

Parentheses are used to add **extra information**.  
**Brackets, dashes** and **commas** can be used.

The dog – **called Jip** – was a sheepdog.

The dog (**called Jip**) was a sheepdog.

The dog, **called Jip**, was a sheepdog.