

## Punctuate

From Candace Murphy and Wire Reports

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Whats wrong with this sentence isn't the point: its what's below that is.

Aug. 22 is **National Punctuation Day**.

This year marks the second anniversary of a day meant to highlight the importance of the thing at the end of this sentence. Founded by Pinole resident Jeff Rubin, owner of The Newsletter Guy ([www.thenewsletterguy.com](http://www.thenewsletterguy.com)), the day draws attention to the importance of proper punctuation in business, education and everyday communications.

"I'm sad to see a decline in writing skills; we communicate so much by phone and e-mail, where writing skills are virtually nonexistent," says Rubin, making exquisitely perfect use of a semicolon and hyphen. "I founded National Punctuation Day because punctuation is essential to good writing, and I'm passionate about good writing."

The day, quite frankly, has an uphill battle. Cellular phones, for example, make it extremely difficult to use proper punctuation while sending text messages because most punctuation marks are tedious to find on those tiny number pads.

Nevertheless, National Punctuation Day has its own Web site ([www.nationalpunctuation-day.com](http://www.nationalpunctuation-day.com)). The site offers punctuation information, grammar resource links, National Punctuation Day celebration ideas and T-shirts with wacky punctuation puns.

By the way, that first sentence should read: What's wrong with this sentence isn't the point; it's what's below that is.