

Punctuation matters, period!

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In his weekly feature, copy editor Ron Davis poses five questions to Jeff Rubin, founder of National Punctuation Day (www.NationalPunctuationDay.com), which will be observed on Sunday.

Q: Why didn't you call National Punctuation Day "National Punctuation Day!"?

A: I did not want to be disrespectful to the other punctuation marks. These days, everyone has self-esteem issues and is worried about being politically correct. Also, there's a lot more random violence. One can't be too careful.

Q: Why is punctuation, so important. Anyway?

A: Because without, punctuation words strung, together in a sentence like, this, would not, make any, sense?

Q: What's a good pickup line to use at a convention of grammarians?

A: "Hi. Would you like to see my dangling participle?"

Q: A lot of people hate semicolons, but I think that's mostly because the name "semicolon" is sort of ugly. What would you rename it to make it more palatable?

A: I'd call it a "halfcolon." In some parts of the world, it would be a delicacy.

Q: Do you have any strategies for battling the insidious punctuation ignorance of the Internet?

A: Shooting your computer with a firearm can be costly, so I recommend listening to the radio and watching TV news, where the reporters and anchors speak good and never make mistakes.