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# THE HOMEROOM

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS, FROM THE INSIDE OUT

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## It's Punctuation Day. Do you know where your comma is?

The book *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* by Lynne Truss made at least a few people take more notice of punctuation.

But you're probably mistaken if you think normal activity for the fifth annual **National Punctuation Day** today will stop.

If you feel more inclined to cook than to write in honor of the day, the website has a recipe for **punctuation meatloaf**.

And everyone can take heed from the example of a Canadian company. A misplaced comma in a contract cost it \$2.3 million when a judge ruled the agreement was not ironclad, as was believed. The judge said bad punctuation was no excuse.

"Punctuation has been devalued by a generation of computer wizards who ask, 'What's the point? Nobody writes in complete sentences anymore,'" says Jeff Rubin, founder of National Punctuation Day. "But the rules of proper punctuation haven't changed just because of computers."

— *Mary MacVean*