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National Punctuation Day: How To Use Punctuation?

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It's September 24 so today is **National Punctuation Day** folks. Use punctuation right every time you type or write by hand anything today.

The **punctuations marks** have their special place in many languages. If not used right, the sentences have different meaning and sometimes are hard to understand.

Not many people have a **punctuation-sense** when it comes to put the right sign when they write. That's why former reporter and

newsletter publisher **Jeff Rubin** decided it was about time to start a holiday to honor the overlooked punctuation marks.

What are the most used and most important punctuation marks?

Here are a few explanations about most of the punctuation marks we use.

The semi-colon. without semi-colons you'd have to start a new sentence with the capital letter even though the first sentence is not long and it continues the idea in the second one but it is not exactly the same idea. Also, using semi-colons gives you the opportunity to fit in among literary circles. For example: My friend is Joan; it's a cat.

The period. This is the most used punctuation mark in any language. The period means that the sentence is finished. If you put three periods up in a row that it means you've forgot something or you're waiting for someone to finish that sentence for you. Example: Oh, wait, you've got plenty of examples in this article. And another one.

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The comma. You use a comma when you're enumerating things, places, people (see what I did here?!) when you're putting a sentence in phrase but that sentence explains some term of the phrase (compound sentences). There are many other situations when you use a comma, but I think you've already learned that in

the first grades.

The ampersand. This is a very easy to use punctuation mark. See examples "D&G" from Dolce and Gabana and many more. It is used by lawyers (I bet you can find many big attorney firms that have an ampersand in its name.) It's really not a very used punctuation mark in formal and official language.

The colon. This is a great punctuation mark used in many circumstances. For example: (this is an example actually.) It is used when you're either starting to list something or when you're giving an example. And of course in many other circumstances.

Parentheses: You use this punctuation mark when you're trying to exemplify something inside the sentence or you're explaining some term. Like I did in this text above. It's quite easy and everyone can use it (just don't tell your teacher you've learned this over the Internet.) See how easy it was to use it?!

The question mark. I love this! And I'm sure many journalists love this since this punctuation mark is the mark of the reporter who keeps on asking questions over and over again. It's pretty cool actually. Do you want to give me an example of how you're using the question mark? Really? OK.

The exclamation point: it's one of the best punctuation marks you can use to virtually scream at somebody. Also, the exclamation point gives the reader the certainty that you are absolutely sure about what you're saying. I'm cool! I loved you!!! (you use three exclamation points to make a huge point.) Also, you use exclamation point when you're wishing someone something. E.g: Happy Birthday Amy!

Happy Punctuation Day y'all! Hope to hear from you on March 4, on National Grammar Day!