**Lesson 7 Arguments II：Discussion**

**Lesson objectives:**

1. Get to know structures of two types of arguments, especially discussion.

2. Learn how to write discussion.

3. Learn how to use punctuation marks properly.

**Sample discussion 2**

Fast Food

Fast food is heavily promoted by the media to young people. Many people feel that fast food is convenient and cheap. On the other hand, others consider it to be unhealthy, bad for the environment, and that its advertising is manipulative.

People are in favor of fast food for a number of reasons. (reasons) For example, it saves time, there are outlets everywhere, and does not require shopping for ingredients, so it is convenient. Furthermore, at just a few dollars for a meal it can be a cheap alternative for low income families.

Conversely, there are many drawbacks to overconsumption of fast food. (reasons) Firstly, the evidence shows that fast food contributes to health problems such as obesity. Secondly, its packaging creates environmental problems such as litter. Moreover, its constant advertising in the media manipulates young people with images of thin happy people having fun.

While fast food may be time saving and relatively low in cost, its advertising leads many young people to consume too much, which can affect promotion their health and wellbeing. For these reasons, we consider that the promotion of fast food should be more strictly regulated.

**Exercise 1.** Analyze the structure and language features or devices of sample discussion 2

**Exercise 2.** The instructor may choose an issue or ask the students to brainstorm a variety of issues and then decide which one to write.

**Exercise 3.** Punctuation exercises

**Punctuation Marks**

**Part I**

Punctuation marks are symbols that are used to aid the clarity and comprehension of written language. So, punctuation helps to clarify and sometimes emphasize the meaning of a sentence. It is necessary to use all the punctuation marks correctly. Some common punctuation marks are the period, comma, question mark, exclamation point, apostrophe, quotation mark and hyphen.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Punctuation Mark** | **Symbol** | **Definition** | **Examples** |
| **apostrophe** | **'** | An apostrophe is used as a substitute for a missing letter or letters in a word (as in the [contraction](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/grammar/contractions/) cannot = can't), to show the possessive case (Jane's room), and in the plural of letters, some numbers and abbreviations. Note: groups of years no longer require an apostrophe (for example, the 1950s or the 90s). | I can't see the cat's tail. Dot your i's and cross your t's. |
| **colon** | **:** | A colon is used before a list or quote.  A colon is used to separate hours and minutes.  A colon is used to separate elements of a mathematical ratio. | There are many punctuation marks: period, comma, colon, and others.  The time is 2:15.  The ratio of girls to boys is 3:2. |
| **comma** | **,** | A comma is used to separate phrases or items in a list. | She bought milk, eggs, and bread. |
| **dash** | **—** | A dash is used to separate parts of a sentence. | The dash is also known as an "em dash" because it is the length of a printed letter m — it is longer than a hyphen. |
| **ellipsis** | **...** | An ellipsis (three dots) indicates that part of the text has been intentionally been left out. | 0, 2, 4, ... , 100 |
| **exclamation point** | **!** | An exclamation point is used to show excitement or emphasis. | It is cold! |
| **hyphen** | **-** | A hyphen is used between parts of a compound word or name. It is also used to split a word by syllables to fit on a line of text. | The sixteen-year-old girl is a full-time student. |
| **parentheses** | **( )** | Parentheses are curved lines used to separate explanations or qualifying statements within a sentence (each one of the curved lines is called a parenthesis). The part in the parentheses is called a parenthetical remark. | This sentence (like others on this page) contains a parenthetical remark. |
| **period(full stop)** | **.** | A period is used to note the end of a declarative sentence. | I see the house. |
| **question mark** | **?** | A question mark is used at the end of a question. | When are we going? |
| **quotation mark** | **"** | Quotation marks are used at the beginning and end of a phrase to show that it is being written exactly as it was originally said or written. | She said, "Let's eat." |
| **semicolon** | **;** | A semicolon separates two independent clauses in a compound sentence.  A semicolon is also used to separate items in a series (where commas are already in use). | Class was canceled today; Mr. Smith was home sick.  Relatives at the reunion included my older brother, Bob; my cousin, Art; and my great-aunt, Mattie. |

**Part II**

# Punctuation（with exercises）

# （Finish the exercises before coming to the class）

### The Sentence and the Full stop (Period) （.）

The full stop is the most important punctuation mark. It shows the end of the sentence. The English language also uses capital letters at the beginning of sentences.

**For example:**

The first schools in what is now British Columbia were established by the Hudson's Bay Company in about 1853 on Vancouver Island. The present public school system originated with the Public School Act of 1872. Education is free and compulsory for children ages 7 to 15. Schools are funded by the provincial government and local property taxes. The province's 75 school districts are administered by locally elected boards.

#### Exercise 1 - Sentence and Full-stops

Divide the following paragraphs into sentences. Put a capital letter at the beginning and a full-stop at the end.

a. the strategic nuclear forces of the United States incorporate both active offensive elements and passive defensive measures in the late 1980s the US Navy fleet of 36 nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines carried 640 improved Poseidon and Trident SLBMs the longer range of these submarines gives them more room to maneuver these vessels included an increasing number of the larger Ohio-class submarines each one carries 24 Trident missiles

b. the Caspian Sea has a mean depth of about 170 m and is deepest in the south its level varies from year to year but averages about 28 m below sea level in the 1960s and 1970s the level fell substantially this was partly because water was withdrawn from tributary rivers for irrigation and other purposes

c. other hereditary blood-group systems have subsequently been discovered the hereditary blood constituent called Rh factor is of great importance in obstetrics and blood transfusions because it creates reactions that can threaten the life of newborn infants blood types M and N have importance in legal cases involving proof of paternity

d. firearms are identified through microscopic imperfections that are produced inadvertently in gun barrels during manufacture subsequent use and wear contribute further to a weapon's individuality a bullet fired from a pistol or rifle has impressed on its surface the individual characteristics of the barrel through which it was fired other parts of the gun also possess individual characteristics

e. toxicology may be defined as the science of poisons special methods of analytical chemistry have been developed for use in toxicological examinations the problem of separating poisons from other materials and of identifying them recurs constantly in a crime laboratory the specimens ordinarily examined in cases of suspected poisoning are tissue and the suspected poison itself

f. there are numerous theories about why crime occurs the oldest theory is that criminals are perverse persons who deliberately commit crimes or who do so at the instigation of the devil or other evil spirits this view persists among some people and provides a rationale for the harsh punishments still meted out to criminals in many parts of the world

g. the treatment and rehabilitation of criminals has improved in many areas the emotional problems of convicts have been studied and efforts have been made to help such offenders parole boards have engaged persons trained in psychology and social work to help convicts on parole or probation adjust to society various states have agencies with programs of reform and rehabilitation for both adult and juvenile offenders

h. the planet 55 Cancri B is about three-quarters as massive as Jupiter and orbits 55 Cancri at an average distance of 16 million km this is about 50 times closer than Jupiter's orbit around the sun the planet 55 Cancri C is about five times as massive as Jupiter and orbits the star at an average distance of about 600 million km both planets follow slightly elliptical orbits around the star the time it takes for 55 Cancri B to circle 55 Cancri is 15 Earth days 55 Cancri C's year is about 8 Earth years long

**The Comma (,)**

The comma is the most important punctuation mark after the full stop. Its main use is for separating parts of sentences. Commas function in five main ways:

1. Before or after adverbial clauses and groups.

2. Before various connectives to join two independent clauses.

3. To separate some non-defining phrases from the rest of the sentence.

4. To separate words, groups and clauses in a series.

5. To separate adjectives that separately modifies the same noun.

#### 1. Before or after adverbial clauses and phrases

**For example:**

Recently, the number of service enterprises in wealthier free-market economies has grown rapidly.

Subsequently, the aircraft underwent numerous design changes before it was incorporated into the Type 4 jet aircraft.

To visit his brother, he drove through the night.

After dinner, he walked around the town.

Although it might seem highly unlikely, there are considerable similarities between the male and female body.

Similar feelings influenced middle-class shareholders and directors, too.

When the activity of our kidneys is considered, a bed-time drink does not waken us by filling our bladders during the night.

Some businesses only seek to earn enough to cover their operating costs, however.

Because stocks are generally negotiable, stockholders have the right to assign or transfer their shares to another individual.

After the war, the United States Army occupied Japan and ordered the dismantling of Mitsubishi and other Japanese conglomerates.

If we work at night and sleep during the daytime, we have difficulty in adjusting our habits.

The patient's perception of his environment and his response to it is likely to be grossly reduced, since he might be unconscious or paralysed, for example.

#### 2. Before various connectives to join two independent clauses

(and, but, or, so, nor, for, yet)

**For example:**

What we require is a National Emergency Government, but no two men I meet can agree how this can be formed.

The house badly needed painting, and the roof needed repairing.

Lord Knollys was not particularly pleased with these proposals, nor were other members of the Cabinet.

A loose stretch would wrinkle too easily with successive washes, or might even wrinkle on a damp day.

There was no Canadian Consulate in Paris at that time, so we had to go to the American Consulate for ours.

It was clearly not an all-party government, yet it was something more than a mere Conservative front.

These experiments led to theories about how development was controlled in terms of cell and tissue properties, but it was very difficult to link these theories with gene action.

The condition of the Liberals was far more serious than that of Labour, for the Liberal party was beginning to lose its sense of identity and purpose.

#### 3. To separate certain phrases from the rest of the sentence

**For example:**

Malaria, once a widespread disease, is under control.

Day-to-day television, in its regularity and its availability, seems regulated by repetition and modulated by acceptable difference.

Mr. Clinton, the President, said that he would give his full support to the proposal.

The Conservatives, who had gained more votes than Labor in the 1929 general election, were only the second largest party.

The chairman, getting to his feet, began to describe his plans.

The opposition parties, however, were unwilling to accept any program of economies which did not involve a cut in the standard rate of benefit.

A nap after lunch, on the other hand, will help you to feel less tired on the evening.

In the United States, for example, many people buy and sell goods and services as their primary occupations.

The prestige of the Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, gave it an influence far greater than its mere numbers would have warranted.

Some of the top clubs, who had never liked the system, were worried about the growing tendency of the very best professionals to leave the country to play in Italy and elsewhere.

#### 4. To separate words, phrases and clauses in a series

**For example:**

Many U.S. firms attempt to tap emerging markets by pursuing business in China, India, Latin America, and Russia and other Eastern European countries.

Life-support machines are no different in principle from medicines, surgery, or other treatment.

A policeman has to be able to work at night, at weekends and on holidays.

The industrial power generator, electronics, and appliance manufacturer Westinghouse Electric Corporation purchased media production company CBS Inc.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries manufactures a large variety of industrial products and machinery, including ships, steel products, power plants, transportation systems,printing presses, aircraft, guided missiles, torpedoes, and air-conditioning and refrigeration systems.

#### 5. To separate adjectives that separately modifies the same noun.

**For example:**

Critics praise the novel's unaffected, unadorned style.

It was conceived of by all those who participated in it as a temporary, emergency government.

He walked with long, slow, steady, deliberate strides.

#### Common mistakes

**A comma** **cannot** **separate subject from predicate. The following sentences are not possible:**

\*A man of his great abilities, would always be successful.

\*The number of service enterprises in wealthier free-market economies, has grown rapidly.

\*Only occupants of the deep oceans or the darkest recesses of caves, will escape such rhythmic influences.

\*Experience indicates that, these rhythms do not result wholly from our life-style.

**A comma** **cannot** **be used to join grammatically separate sentences. The following sentences are not possible:**

\*London is a very cosmopolitan city, there are people from many culture living there.

\*Learning a new language is like learning to swim, it takes a lot of practice.

\*Students in Higher Education face many problems, for example, they have to cope with a new culture.

#### Exercise 2 - Commas

Add commas wherever necessary. Name the function of each comma.

**Advertising**

1. Advertising is the collective term for public announcements designed to promote the sale of specific commodities or services.

2. Advertising is a form of mass selling and it is employed when the use of direct person-to-person selling is impractical impossible or simply inefficient.

3. It is to be distinguished from other activities intended to persuade the public such as propaganda publicity and public relations.

4. Advertising techniques range in complexity from the publishing of straightforward notices in the classified-advertising columns of newspapers to the concerted use of newspapers magazines television radio direct mail and other communications media in the course of a single advertising campaign.

5. From its unsophisticated beginnings in ancient times advertising has burgeoned into a worldwide industry.

6. In the U.S. alone in the late 1980s approximately $120 billion was spent in a single year on advertising to influence the purchase of commodities and services.

7. American advertising leads the world not only in volume of business but in the complexity of its organization and of its procedures.

8. For these reasons this article deals primarily with advertising in the U.S.

9. Modern advertising is an integral segment of urban industrial civilization mirroring contemporary life in its best and worst aspects.

10. Having proven its force in the movement of economic goods and services advertising since the early 1960s has been directed in increasing quantity toward matters of social concern.

11. The continuing cancer and antidrug abuse campaigns are only two examples of the use of the advertising industry as a means to promote public welfare.

12. Advertising falls into two main categories: consumer advertising directed to the ultimate purchaser and trade advertising in which the appeal is made to dealers through trade journals and other media.

13. Both consumer and trade advertising employ many specialized types of commercial persuasion.

14. A relatively minor but important form of advertising is institutional advertising which is designed solely to build prestige and public respect for particular business concerns as important American institutions.

15. Each year millions of dollars are spent on institutional advertising which usually mentions products or services for sale only incidentally.

16. Another minor but increasingly popular form of advertising is cooperative advertising in which the manufacturer shares the expense of local radio or newspaper advertising with the retailer who signs the advertisement.

17. National advertisers occasionally share the same space in magazine advertising.

18. For example makers of pancake flour of syrup and of sausages sometimes jointly advertise this combination as an ideal cold-weather breakfast.

19. Advertising may be local national or international in scope and so the rates charged for the three different levels of advertising vary sharply particularly in newspapers.

20. Varying rates are set also by newspapers for amusement legal political financial religious and charitable advertisements.

**The Apostrophe**

The apostrophe has two main functions in English, but only one in academic writing. It is used mainly to show possession or relationship. It is also used in informal writing to show contraction or letters left out.

#### Possession or relationship

The apostrophe precedes the 's' in singular words and plurals that do not end in 's'. It follows the 's' in plurals that end in 's'. The apostrophe is not used with the possessive pronouns 'hers', 'yours', 'theirs' and 'its'.

**For example:**

The province's 75 school districts are administered by locally elected boards.

Modern estimates of England's total population vary between 1 and 3 million.

Two years earlier, The Economist had described gambling, as Britain's second biggest industry.

The annual per capita consumption of sugar, between the Queen's accession and 1860, rose to 54 lb. in 1870-99 and 85 lb. in 1900-10.

Newly married, neatly permed and wearing the very latest in expensive Western wedding garb, they head for the groom's sleek sports car under a hail of rice.

By then Leonardo's expertise with paint brush and palette, pen and pencil was already well advanced.

In contrast to the all-inclusiveness of other countries' socialised medical services, 40m Americans have no coverage at all.

The intention of this new alliance is to make the fight against the administration's policy on cryptography a populist issue and to derail potentially threatening legislation.

Hemp's environmental credentials are indisputable.

The third and main reason is the process of extracting fibre from the plant's stem.

The weather's unpredictability makes this risky - farmers can easily lose their whole crop.

#### Common mistakes

An apostrophe **cannot** be used to make plurals. The following - from the University of Hertfordshire - are not possible:



### Exercise 3 - Apostrophes

#### Add apostrophes to the following texts.

a. Astronomers theorize that the 55 Cancri planets formed from a disk of dust around their star, the same way planets formed in the earths solar system.

b. When a planet pulls 55 Cancri away from the earth, the stars light appears to redden slightly. The stars light becomes slightly bluer when a planet pulls the star toward the earth.

c. 3Ms founders originally planned to mine and sell corundum, a high-quality abrasive mineral used to manufacture grinding wheels.

d. 3M sales representatives began bypassing their clients purchasing agents and dealing directly with plant workers. The companys first major breakthroughs in product development grew out of this strategy.

e. During the 1960s and 1970s Castros government made significant strides in improving Cubas educational and health care facilities, and offered the Cuban revolution as an example to other developing nations.

f. The museums collections include large numbers of impressionist, postimpressionist, cubist, and abstract artworks. Since its beginning, the museums collection has broadened and it now includes sculpture, paintings, and artworks from the entire modern period.

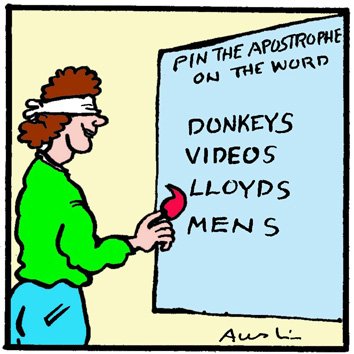
g. Godards first feature-length film, *à bout de souffle*, established him as the leading figure of nouvelle vague.

h. One of the citys major museums is the Des Moines Art Center (1948), designed by the Finnish-born architect Eliel Saarinen.

i. The citys Sherman Hill Historic District contains many turn-of-the-century buildings, including Salisbury House, a reproduction (1923-1928) of the Kings House in Salisbury, England, and Terrace Hill, a Victorian mansion (1867-1869), now the Iowa governors residence.

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### The Capital letters

Capital letters have two main uses in English: they are used at the beginning of sentences and for proper names.

#### 1. At the beginning of a sentence

If football was a business, it was a very peculiar one. Clubs did not compete with one another to attract larger crowds by reducing their prices. Nor did they make any serious efforts to derive income from a huge fixed asset, which was used for only a few hours a week.

#### 2. Proper names

Personal names: John, Ms Smith, Dr Brown, Mr Gates, Elizabeth,

Titles: Mr, Ms, Dr, Colonel, Professor, President, Prime Minister, Judge

Geographical names: Argentinian, Europe, China, Mount Everest, Lake Michigan Skye, Borneo, London, Bangkok, the River Thames, the Pacific Ocean, the Panama Canal, Baker Street, Cambridge Road, Raffles Hotel, St George's Hall

Company/Organisation names: Shell, Woolworths, Microsoft, Boots, World Trade Organisation, World Health Organisation, Federal Trade Commission, British Broadcasting Corporation

University/School names: Oxford University, University of Hertfordshire, Royal College of Music

Religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Islam

Days, months, festivals - but not seasons: Monday, July, Christmas, summer, winter

Magazines & Journals: Newsweek, Vogue, The Times, New Scientist, TESOL Quarterly

Languages: English, Hindi

Nationalities: English, French, Spanish, Japanese, American

#### Exercise 4 - Capital letters

##### Add the capital letters to the following texts:

**a.** business activities are becoming increasingly global as numerous firms expand their operations into overseas markets. manyu.s. firms, for example, attempt to tap emerging markets by pursuing business in china, india, latinamerica, and russia and other eastern european countries. multinational corporations, which operate in more than one country at once, typically move operations to wherever they can find the least expensive labor pool able to do the work well. production jobs requiring only basic or repetitive skills-such as sewing or etching computer chips-are usually the first to be moved abroad. multinational corporations can pay these workers a fraction of what they would have to pay in a domestic division, and often work them longer and harder.

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**b.** solicitors for edwardconnelly have also obtained leave to hear negligence claims against cape (formerly the cape asbestos company) in the uk, and thor chemicals holdings. the cape case involves three south african and four italian employees who contracted asbestos-related cancer after working at two south african subsidiaries. in 1997, thor paid 1.3 million to 20 south african employees who suffered mercury poisoning from an unsafe chemical process, while a further 21 claims against the company are pending.

### The Quotation marks

In academic writing, quotation marks are used to show that you are quoting directly from another author's work. The quotation marks should enclose the actual words of the author and all bibliographical information must be given.

**For example:**

Hillocks (1986) similarly reviews dozens of research findings. He writes, "The available research suggests that teaching by written comment on compositions is generally ineffective" (p. 167).

For example, McCawley stated in 1968, "... a full account of English syntax requires a fairly full account of semantics to just as great an extent as the converse is true"(p. 161).

Hatch (1978, p. 104) wonders whether a more accurate portrayal might be that the learner "learns how to do conversation, how to interact verbally and out of this interaction syntactic structures are developed" .

Note the punctuation before the quotation marks:

When a reporting verb is used to introduce the quotation, a comma is used.

He stated, "The 'placebo effect,' ... disappeared when behaviours were studied in this manner" (Smith, 1982, p. 276), but he did not clarify which behaviours were studied.

When the quotation is integrated into the structure of your sentence, no punctuation is used.

Richterich and Chancerel (1980, p. 5) maintain that "assessment should be an integral part of the learning material" .

When the quotation is independent of the structure of the main sentence, a colon is used.

Miele (1993, p. 276) found the following: "The placebo effect ... disappeared when behaviors were studied in this manner" .

Holmes &Stubbe (2003) noted the following:

Humour typically constructs participants as equals, emphasising what they have in common and playing down power differences.

#### Exercise 5 - Quotation marks

#### Add punctuation marks to the following texts.

**The words that should be quoted are highlighted:**

Attitudes are here taken in the meaning advocated by Sarnoff (1970) a disposition to react favourably or unfavourably to a class of objects (p. 179).

In a recent survey, Berwick & Ross (1989) found that the overall intensity of motivation of the studnets was low (p. 206).

Shaw (1983, p. 24) had similar results, leading him to say the students are not learning English so they can change themselves and become like native speakers.

Morrow (1987, p. 58) has taken the view that the development of the reading skill in English may well be the most urgent need of the majority of Japaneses learners. He continues

On the other hand, with the spread of English as an international language, there is an increasing number of Japanese businessmen, scientists and scholars from many disciplines who need to use English not only to communicate with English speakers, but also to communicate with other non-native English speakers who use English for international communication. For this group, the acquisition of speaking and listening skills is vital. (p. 58)

### The Colon

Colons are used to add extra information after a clause. This can be divided into three main categories.

#### 1. Lists

A colon can introduce a list.

We need three kinds of support: economic, moral and political.

The Labour government found itself under pressure from three directions: from the left wing, from the TUC, and from Sir Oswald Mosley and his supporters.

#### 2. Explanations

A colon can be used before an explanation.

We decided not to go on holiday: we had too little money.

It was conceived of by all those who participated in it as a temporary, emergency government, formed for a single limited purpose: to balance the budget through drastic economies and increases in taxation.

It was something very rarely seen in Britain, or in other democracies: an emergency government.

#### 3. Quotations

A colon is used before a quotation when the quotation is independent of the structure of the main sentence.

Miele (1993, p. 276) found the following: " The placebo effect ... disappeared when behaviors were studied in this manner."

#### Note

Do not use a colon directly after a verb or a preposition that introduces the list, explanation or quotation.

#### Exercise 6 – Colon

#### Add colons to the following texts and explain their use:

It was conceived of by all those who participated in it not as a coalition government as generally understood, but as a temporary, emergency government, formed for a single limited purpose to balance the budget through drastic economies and increases in taxation.

The National Government was a genuine coalition in the sense in which that term is used on the continent a government comprising independent yet conflicting elements allied together.

This third National Government was the type of coalition government with which British history is much more familiar a coalition between one major party and a fragment from another which has broken off because it disagrees with one of its parent party's central tenets.

The Labour government found itself under pressure from three directions from the left wing, from the TUC, and from Sir Oswald Mosley and his supporters.

Finlay had recommended four alternatives: full internationalization, a European plus dependencies system, an Empire only system, or international regulation.

Only the United States had no state airline, and believed that airways should be open to free market capitalism "In general, the Chicago conference can be described as an attempt by the United States to capitalise on its overwhelmingly strong bargaining position in international aviation by securing for itself a near monopoly of long-haul air transport."

Berle also was not impressed with Swinton, who always pleaded that he was bound by instructions from London "Swinton is ill-prepared and he also tends to be arrogant and inflexible."

### The Semi-Colon

Semi-Colons have two main uses in academic writing.

#### 1. To separate closely-related sentences

A semi-colon can be used to separate two sentences which could be written as independent sentences but are very closely related in meaning.

A thorough and detailed biography of Arthur Henderson is also badly needed; the recent short studies by F. M. Leventhal and Chris Wrigley add little in so far as the events of 1931 are concerned.

Clearly, as the concentration of P rises, so will the proportion of enzyme molecules to which P is bound; hence the rate of conversion of S to A, and thence to P, will fall.

In both cases a full stop would be acceptable. A comma would not.

#### 2. Complicated Lists

A semi-colon can also be used to separate items in lists, especially if the items are long and complicated and already contain commas.

Labour was the largest party with 288 MPs; the Conservatives, who had gained more votes than Labour in the 1929 general election, were, nevertheless, only the second largest party with, by 1931, 262 MPs; and the Liberals had fifty-nine MPs.

Latin literature continued to be copied by Christian aristocrats; classical learning survived in the teaching available, now in episcopal households rather than public schools; Roman art continued to adorn the walls of churches and the sides of sarcophagi.

[^](http://www.uefap.com/writing/punc/punc.htm#top)

#### Exercise 7 - Summary

The following text has had all punctuation, capital letters and paragraphs removed. Rewrite the text and check your answer.

**Reformasi or survival**

**Jeremy Seabrook reports from the Indonesian eye of the global economic storm.**

indonesia after the departure of president suharto is a turbulent troubled place modest political freedoms have been conceded by habibie his successor but these have taken place at a time of unimaginable economic hardship political parties are being formed - there are now over 60 of them workers have some rights - so long desired so long suspended - to organise but these small advances are in danger of being overtaken by unemployment poverty and hunger in the wake of the devaluation of the rupiah by 80 per cent and the shrinking of the indonesian economy this year by at least 15 per cent jakarta has been made a restless volatile place there are daily demonstrations incidents students demand the ousting of habibie who is seen as the defender of the suharto legacy workers protest at price rises which make one meal a day a luxury the unemployed desperately seek some work for themselves in the formal economy in front of the aryaduta hotel hundreds of young men working for money- changers stop passing cars with the promise of 11000 rupiah to the us dollar elsewhere at traffic lights boys in ragged jeans and coloured bandannas sing to cheap guitars while children stand in the swirling exhaust fumes offering comics lighters cigarettes from nine in the morning till seven at night for the sake of a dollar at one point jobs were disappearing in jakarta at the rate of 15000 a day no industry is unaffected only the machines in the garment factories are still humming away making cheap clothing for export it is impossible to exaggerate the plight of the workers they live in tiny shared rooms in overbuilt slum areas with bare plastic floor-coverings hard mats for sleeping a canvas zip-up wardrobe a mirror a lipstick and a tin of baby-powder the closest thing they have to luxury wati deserted by her husband has sent her three children back to her west java village to stay with her parents while she shares a room with two others each paying two dollars a month out of a salary of twenty dollars most of which must be sent to the village many have reduced their consumption of food to levels that are dangerously low in nutrients - a bowl of noodles and vegetables some rice with chili and salt even while work was assured workers lived on the edge of subsistence the factories guarded by the military to prevent them from combining or organising in any way this was the incentive for foreign capital taiwanesekorean or singaporean subcontractors were drawn here by abnormally low wages which made labour costs in indonesia among the lowest in the world what happens to people who have entered the market economy only recently when they are ejected from it so brutally some have returned to their villages even though it was the inadequate livelihood there that drove them to the city in the first place as a result the crisis has been exported to the countryside there has been sporadic unrest here too as the unemployed join with poor farmers and workers - a powerful c oalition against the mismanagement of government which despite the removal of suharto remains fundamentally unchanged the family still manages to absorb the poverty of its members who had scattered in search of a better life parlin returned from the oil-palm plantation in kalimantan to live with his brother in jakartasusanto depending on the wages his wife draws from the nike factory razak sacked from five different industries for organising the workers the extended family of mayu waiting each month for the money she sends from singapore where she is a maidservant warantosubsidised by the friend with whom he shares a cell-like room in ancol economic disruption has a profound effect on all areas of social life triatni a metal worker is still unmarried although he is aged over 30 icouldnt survive with a wife he says 'and could not afford to feed any children on the wage i am earning' many young people cannot think of marrying this suggests the destruction of hopes and expectations on a large scale as well as creating an expanding sex industry with all its attendant social and economic costs the great majority of young people who came to jakarta to work were reluctant migrants in the first place they would not have left the village if there had been a choice as it is many are reluctant to return or even to tell their families that the hope of a secure job has been disappointed and that they are barely surviving in the alien unchosen environment of the city the situation is untenable women sweep up the rice-grains along with the dust from the roadside near the warehouses people scavenge among the waste from restaurants a government which could pursue dissenters to the remotest hiding-places in indonesia cannot bring the necessities of life to its wanting people is this by design as some believe so that the inevitable disorder can be used as a new excuse for the military to clamp down once more or will a revolt that is barely containable announce the beginning of true reform the tension on the streets is tangible as the desire for social and political change is undermined by a desperate struggle against hunger and destitution

(*New Internationalist*, December 1998)

**Part III**

**Six Common Punctuation Errors that Bedevil Bloggers**



Proofreading your text for misspelled words and grammatical mistakes is essential. What about the punctuation, though?

Despite being more subtle, these errors can equally hurt your credibility. I’m going to point out six common punctuation errors that you shouldn’t be making, and give you examples so you’re sure about the right way to handle these situations.

Ready? Let’s go.

**1. Apostrophe for Plurals**

This mistake is particularly common among foreigners who are learning English as a second language. After all, you would expect native English speaks to know how to form plurals (right?). The apostrophe is used to form contractions (e.g., It’s time to go) and to indicate possession (e.g., Mary’s car is blue), but never to form plurals.

*Wrong: The boy’s will go to the school tomorrow.*

*Right: The boys will go to the school tomorrow.*

**2. The Comma Splice**

When the comma is used to separate independent clauses, there must be a conjunction connecting them. If the conjunction is not there, we have a comma splice. You can fix this mistake by using a period instead of the comma, or by adding a coordinating conjunction.

*Wrong: The car costs $10000, I am going to buy it.*

*Right. The car costs $10000. I am going to buy it.*

*Right: The car costs $10000, and I am going to buy it.*

**3. Quotation Marks for Emphasis**

Quotation marks are mainly used to quote speech, sentences or words. They can also be used to denote irony. They can’t be used, however, to add emphasis to a word or sentence. It is not rare to find advertisements or promotional flyers carrying this error. If you want to add emphasis to a word, use the boldface type and not the quotation marks.

*Wrong: This gift is “free”!*

*Right: This gift is****free****!*

**4. Multiple Punctuation Marks**

Unless you want to sound like an overly emotional teenager writing on MySpace, you should limit yourself to one exclamation point, regardless of how excited you might be when writing that sentence. The same applies to question marks and to the ellipsis (which should have only three dots). Also, keep in mind that exclamation points are not used that frequently in business and formal writing. If your text is loaded with them, you probably should review it.

*Wrong: This is amazing!!!!*

*Wrong: The man was silent……*

*Right: This is amazing!*

*Right: The man was silent…*

**5. Punctuation outside the Quotation Marks**

If you are writing in American English, other punctuation should go inside the quotation marks, even if it is not part of the quotation itself. British English, on the other hand, places punctuation that is not part of the quoted sentence outside of the quotation marks.

*Wrong in American English: Uncle John said, “My car is blue”.*

*Right in American English: Uncle John said, “My car is blue.”*

**6. The Missing Comma after Introductory Elements**

Sometimes you want to give an introduction or provide a background to a certain sentence. That is fine, but do not forget to place a comma after that introductory element. Notice that an introductory element can be a sentence (like in the example below) or a single word (e.g., however, moreover and so on).

*Wrong: Before going to the school Joe stopped at my house.*

*Right: Before going to the school, Joe stopped at my house.*

What other punctuation mishaps do you make, or what drives you crazy when others fracture the rules?

**Part IV**

**Resources for autonomous learning**

**1.**

<http://www.thepunctuationguide.com/index.html>

**2.**

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/marks/marks.htm>

**3.**

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/punctuation>

**4**

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/punctuation>

**5.**

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/page_55.htm>

**6.**

<http://www.writingforward.com/category/grammar/punctuation-marks>

**7．**

<http://www.calstate.edu/brand/styleguide/punctuation.shtml>

**8.**

<http://www.docin.com/p-506718948.html>

**9.**

<http://www.punctuationchecker.org/>

**10.**

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/6/>

**11.**

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/informatics/punctuation/>

**12.**

<http://www.punctuationmatters.com/>

**13.**

<http://www.punctuationcheck.org/>

**14.**

<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/words/punctuation>

**15**

<http://grammar.about.com/od/punctuationandmechanics/a/punctrules.htm>

**Assignment**

Some people think only best students should be rewarded, other think we should reward students who make progress. Discuss both views and give your own opinions. (This written assignment will be due in **Week 9.**)