

# Punctuation – Slashes

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# Punctuation – The Slash

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Slashes (/) are sometimes called ‘forward slashes’, in order to avoid confusion with a backslash (\), which is really only used in computers.

The slash is also technically known as a virgule.

It can be used in place of ‘or’.

It can be used to show rates, in place of ‘per’.

Slashes can be used to display dates.

Slashes can be used to display fractions.

Slashes can be used to display abbreviated date ranges.

Slashes can be used for certain abbreviations.

# Slashes – Examples #1

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Slashes can be used in place of ‘or’.

- Each applicant must include his or her CV.
- Each applicant must include his/her CV.
- Your parent or guardian must sign the consent form.
- Your parent/guardian must sign the consent form.

# Slashes – Examples #2

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Slashes can be used to show rates and ratios, in place of 'per'.

- The price is \$20 per item.
- The price is \$20/item.
- You can fit 25 blocks per square metre.
- You can fit 25 blocks/m<sup>2</sup>.

# Slashes – Examples #3

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Slashes can be used to display dates.

- The meeting is scheduled for 23/7.
- UK: She was born on 17/3/1992.
- US: She was born on 3/17/1992.
- We were on holiday from 3/4/2018.
- How do we read this if we don't know the format?
- You have to ask the author!

# Slashes – Examples #4

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Slashes can be used to display fractions.

- One half is written as  $1/2$ .
- Three quarters is written as  $3/4$ .
- I'm nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  way through my book.
- You ate  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the cake!

# Slashes – Examples #5

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Slashes can be used to display abbreviated date ranges.

If the date range is greater than 2 years, we generally use dashes.

- The 2008/9 season was decided well before the last game.
- They were at university together in the 1985/86 academic year.
- (They were at university together between 1985-89.)

# Slashes – Examples #6

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Slashes can be used for certain abbreviations.

This is not recommended for formal writing.

- I haven't seen a B/W TV for a long time.
- Please send the package to the company address c/o Paul Brown.
- The shop is open 24/7.