

Punctuation – Question Mark

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It replaces a full stop at the end of a question.

(Unless the last word is an abbreviation)

Is used with tag questions.

Not used with indirect questions.

It is be combined with other exclamation and question marks.

You need to be careful when formatting titles with question marks.

Question Mark – Replaces a Full Stop

They replace a full stop at the end of an interrogative sentence.

(Unless the last word is an abbreviation)

- When is your holiday this year?
- What would you like to eat this evening?
- Do you really know Robert Downey Jr.?
- Is my operation really scheduled for 4a.m.?

Question Mark – Tag Questions

Please see the lesson on tag questions for more details.

- This is not a tag question.
- This is a tag question, isn't it?

Question Mark – Indirect Questions

Indirect questions don't need a question mark at the end.

- What would you like to eat this evening?
- I was wondering what you would like to eat this evening.
- What do you think the next *Game of Thrones* series will be like?
- I'm curious what the next *Game of Thrones* series will be like.

Question Mark – in Combination

They can be combined with other question and exclamation marks.

This is used in informal writing only.

- Are you talking to me????
- She said what?!?!?!?
- OMG!!!! Who does he think he is?!?!?

Question Mark – Formatting

You need to be careful when formatting titles with question marks.

Titles of books, films and so on are often *italicised* to show this.

If the name of the book or film includes a question mark, then this would also get italicised.

However, if the name is without, then the question mark is normal.

- How many times have you seen *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* this year?
- Did you enjoy watching *Groundhog Day*?