

Punctuation – Fun Examples

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This lesson is a light-hearted look at punctuation.

It shows how very small changes in punctuation can have huge changes in meaning.

Fun Examples #1

A comma can alter the meaning drastically:

- I laugh at fools, like you. (We both laugh at fools)
- I laugh at fools like you. (I laugh at fools and you're one of them)

- Let's eat, Granny. (Suggesting to Granny that we eat)
- Let's eat Granny. (Suggesting that we eat Granny)

- Plans are: watching little sister, shower, then off to the cinema.
- Plans are: watching little sister shower then off to the cinema.

- Most of the time, travellers worry about their luggage.
- Most of the time travellers worry about their luggage.

Fun Examples #2

A colon in the wrong place changes the meaning greatly:

- Attention employees: toxic. (warning **to** employees)
- Attention: employees toxic. (warning **about** employees)

- Caution pedestrians: slippery when wet.
- Caution: pedestrians slippery when wet.

Fun Examples #3

You need the right number of full stops:

- Love people. Cook them tasty food. (a nice thing to do)
- Love people. Cook them. Tasty food. (not so nice)

- We are hiring. New fish recipes. (2 pieces of information)
- We are hiring new fish recipes. (1 piece of information)

- Slow. Children at play.
- Slow children at play.

Fun Examples #4

A school class was asked to punctuate the following sentence:

➤ A woman without her man is nothing.

The boys all wrote:

➤ A woman without her man, is nothing.

The girls all wrote:

➤ A woman: without her, man is nothing.

Fun Examples #5

And finally, a great definition of grammar:

- Grammar: it's the difference between
- knowing your shit and knowing you're shit.