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The Daily Star
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No iron can pierce the heart with such force as a period put just at the right place.

Isaac Babel (1894–1940), Russian Journalist

PUNCTUATION IS ESSENTIAL in writing. The various internal and external punctuation marks we use are like road signs for readers. End marks like —period or full stop, question mark, and exclamation mark—indicate that the thought or sentence is complete and that the reader should pause, much in the way a stop sign signals a driver.

PERIODS / FULL STOP

The period or full stop is the most common form of end punctuation. It indicates the end of a declarative sentence—a statement, a request, or a command.

I am cold.
Please close the window.
We also find full stops in common abbreviations, like those for months, days, and measurements.
inches = in. square feet = sq. ft. Monday = Mon. September = Sept.
We also find full stops in a person's initials like :
Franklin D. Roosevelt , E. B. White , J. F. Kennedy
and in name titles. Mister = Mr. Doctor = Dr.

QUESTION MARK ?

We find question marks at the end of interrogative sentences, also known as questions.
Can Trish play tennis ? Are you hungry? What time is it, please?

Be careful not to confuse an indirect question with a direct question. Since indirect questions are really just statements (declarative sentences), they take a full stop, not a question mark.

Direct: Why did Robin wear a green sock on one foot and a purple one on the other?

Indirect: Dalim wondered why Robin wore a green sock on one foot and a purple one on the other.

EXCLAMATION MARK !!

When you want to imply strong feeling or emotion in a written sentence, you should place an exclamation point at the end. This would also include authoritative commands and interjections.
Hey! Watch what you're doing!
Thanks! I love it!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! 1

Say whether the following sentences are correctly punctuated or not.

1. It's 2 A.M.! You should be asleep!
2. How nice that Jalal offered to help clean up afterward?
3. What is the capital of Nepal?
4. I asked Mita to meet me at 3 P.M. to study.
5. Put your glasses away in a safe place.
6. Sh!!!! Be careful not to wake the baby?
7. We are supposed to head home at around 9:00 P.M
8. Nonsense! I would never say that?
9. In yesterday's field practice, did Lulu's high jump measure over 6 ft.?
10. How sad Sheela must feel?

Punctuate the following sentence correctly.

11. Mrs Sohrab lives across the street
12. Excellent job, Keya I knew you could do it if you put your mind to it
13. Tamal spoke at a youth conference in St Louis this past weekend
14. The itinerary shows that the tour starts at 8 AM and goes to 4:30 PM
15. Park Avenue is the third stop before reaching Highland Street
16. God why did Mark leave late He promised to be here by 10 AM
17. Patel Roy was 4 ft 7 in tall in January It's November now, and he's almost 5 ft 1 in
18. Dr Kaiser said Poly should exercise for one hr on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
19. Ouch That hurts my toe
20. I was wondering if Ayesha saw Helal yesterday in school.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! 2

Put either a comma, full stop or a question mark at the end of each sentence.

1.I wish I could play hockey this winter____
2.When do you think Mark will be home____
3.Stop it____ I don't like it when you yell____
4.How many more days until it will be my birthday____
5.I wish I could go visit my cousin____
6.How much money will I need to go to the movie____
7.When my brother gets home, we'll have dinner ____
8.My favorite food is pizza____
9.Ouch____ I burned my arm on the iron____
10.Who is your best friend at school____
11.Jade's dog is the cutest dog I've ever seen____
12.Want to have a race on our bikes____
13.I am heading south for the summer holidays____
14.Do you get an allowance every week___
15.Where can I buy roller skates____

All About COMMA -1

FIRST THE RULES, THEN PRACTICE

RULE 1: Use commas to separate words, phrases, or clauses in a series.
Red, green, and blue are the only colors left to choose from.
Jamil untied the bow, opened the box, and peeked inside.

RULE 2: Use a comma to set off an introductory word or phrase from the rest of the sentence.
Without a comma, your reader could mistakenly carry the meaning of the introduction into the main part of the sentence.
Confusing: While they ate the students talked about their plans for the weekend.
Less Confusing: While they ate, the students talked about their plans for the weekend.

RULE 3: Use commas to set off an appositive, a word or phrase that renames or identifies the noun or pronoun preceding it.
Our neighbours, the Rahims, traveled to Bandarban for vacation this summer.

RULE 4: Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, or so) that is followed by an independent clause.
Fried chicken is delicious, but it is also fattening.

RULE 5: Use commas when writing dialogue. For a direct quotation that identifies the speaker first, place the comma outside the opening quotation marks, after the opening phrase.
Vera replied, "It is nice to meet you, too."
For a direct quotation with an interrupter, place one comma after the first portion of the quoted sentence and another comma after the interrupter words.
"I think, "Vera continued, "that we have met before."
Note that commas are not used when an indirect quotation states what someone said, but not exactly in the same words.
Vera said that she thought they had met before.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! 3

Insert commas where they belong:

1. Although I liked what you wrote about caring for your pet rat I have a suggestion you might want to consider.
2. Ever since you asked my opinion about the soccer field battle I've been mulling the situation over trying to determine a logical consequence.
3. I don't usually give unsolicited advice but this seems to me to be a special case.
4. I wouldn't ordinarily presume to tell you how to behave but I'm concerned.
5. Your suggestion is excellent and I may regret not trying it but I'm going to try something else first.
6. May you live as long as you want, and never want as long as you live!
7. On the occasion of your 16th birthday, we send you our best wishes.
8. As you rightly pointed out a mistake has been made on your report card.
9. I don't like it when you're upset with me particularly since it was my fault.
10. If you are unable to make the meeting please let me know as soon as possible.
11. If you would like to discuss your report card I would be happy to do so at a time that is convenient for you.
12. If I can repay the kindness let me know.
13. Despite our last three reminders you have still been coming to school late.
14. In the first sentence refer to the topic of your paper.
15. People who haven't written a letter in years use e-mail because of its ease directness, and speed.
16. Check for accuracy spelling and punctuation before sending your e.mail.
17. As you are no doubt aware we are sold out.
18. If you require additional support please call the service department.

Summarize the following article in not more than 100 words.

One of the greatest men ever to have lived in the world was Dr Alexander Flemming. He was a dedicated English doctor who was very keen to do his best to cure his patients. However, there were no bacteria-fighting drugs at that time and many of his patients died of blood-poisoning. Therefore, Dr Flemming tried to discover a bacteria-fighting drug through experiments in his laboratory.

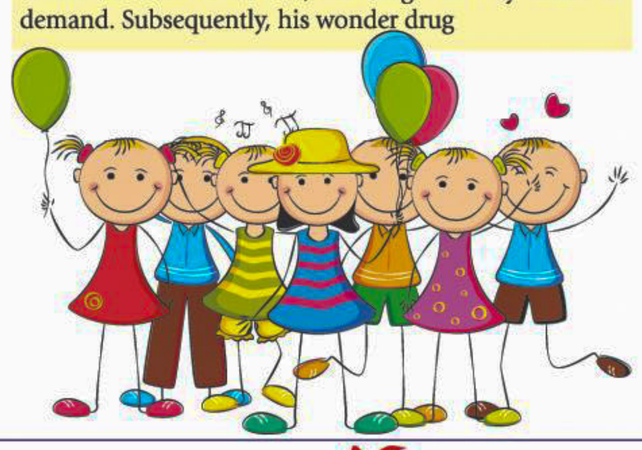
He cultivated harmful germs on dishes of jelly. Surprisingly, he discovered that the harmful germs were killed by the mould in the jelly. The organisms in the mould produced chemical substances which killed the harmful germs. This was a fantastic discovery in 1928 - a mould that could kill harmful germs! As a result, Dr Flemming wanted to find the chemical substance made by the mould.

Finally, he found the substance which was three times more effective than carbolic acid, the disinfectant for killing germs then. The new drug became known as penicillin, after the name of the mould. Dr Flemming's next challenge was to produce a large amount of this antibody for use on his patients.

He continued with his experiments. With the outbreak of the Second World War, his drug was very much in demand. Subsequently, his wonder drug was produced in great amounts. The persons responsible were Professor Sir Howard Florey who introduced its use for healing patients, and Dr E. Chain who studied it in detail.

With the discovery of penicillin by Dr Flemming, fewer people died from bacteria infection. His drug had alleviated the sufferings of mankind and indeed saved the lives of millions. Hailed as one of the world's greatest contributors to medical science, he had made it possible not only to treat diseases but to prevent them too. His drug can be applied to animals as well. Therefore, if you had been treated for diseases such as pneumonia, influenza and gum infection by antibiotics, you have Dr Flemming to thank for.

In recognition of his brilliant discovery, Dr Flemming was knighted, a reward richly befitting his contribution to mankind.



CLOZE PASSAGE

Complete the story with suitable words you know.

Jasmine was walking to her class slowly. She was worried ___1___ the History test she would have to ___2___ that morning. As she was reaching the classroom, a piece of paper suddenly fluttered down and ___3___ near her feet. As Jasmine glanced down at the paper, her heart nearly ___4___ a beat. It was the History test paper complete ___5___ answers!
Jasmine's very first thought was not to ___6___ anyone about what she had found. She would memorize ___7___ the answers and do extremely ___8___ in the test. After some hard thinking, however, she knew that it would be a very ___9___ thing to do. Besides, it would not be ___10___ to her classmates. In the ___11___, Jasmine returned the paper to her History teacher, Miss Jessica.
"Thanks, Jasmine. I have been searching high and ___12___ for it," said the teacher.
"I...I've read all the questions ___13___, Miss Jessica," Jasmine confessed.
Miss Jessica ___14___ her not to worry as she would think of new questions for the test. Jasmine's ___15___ sank. She was half hoping that the test ___16___ be cancelled. Nevertheless, she did her best in the new test later that day.
A few days later, the test papers were ___17___ to the class. To her pleasant surprise, Jasmine discovered that she had ___18___ eighty marks.
"You know something," she told her friends. "I could easily have scored ___19___ marks if I had cheated on this test. But I wouldn't be as pleased as I am ___20___with the eighty marks I obtained."

Answer Key (Dated 29 June, 2015)

KEY: Task 1
1. across 2. across 3. across 4. through 5. across 6. across 7. through 8. through 9. through 10. through 11. through 12. through

KEY: Task 2
1. quickly, 2. excitedly, 3. carelessly, 4. finally, 5. slowly, 6. easily, 7. suddenly, 8. loudly, 9. well, 10. Beautifully

KEY: Task 3
1. quickly, 2. quiet, 3. happily, 4. beautifully, 5. well, 6. loud, 7. careful, 8. good, 9. angrily, 10. Completely

KEY: Clean Water Act
1D 2A 3A 4C 5A 6C 7D 8B 9B 10D

KEY: Task 4 (More Adverbs!)
1. usually 2. never 3. once 4. always 5. often 6. mostly 7. very 8. sometimes 9. occasionally 10. rarely

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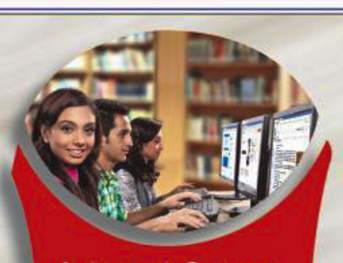

Internet Corner
The Cultural Ministry of Bangladesh & Robi have set up Internet Corners at 7 public libraries across 7 divisions open to the general public with a limitless reservoir of knowledge & information.

Nirapod Pani
In collaboration with Bangladesh Railway and Water Aid Bangladesh, Robi has set up water treatment plants in major railway stations for the benefit of the passengers.

Robir Alo
Robi is delivering solar energy facilities to remote villages and igniting the power to make life comfortable and fruitful.
Let Robir Alo beat darkness.

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Helping to Make Life Better
As a socially responsible company, Robi has in place an extensive CSR program aimed at contributing to social uplift and environmental upkeep. With the vision of enabling opportunities to improve life, Robi drives its CSR activities in the domain of Health, Environment and ICT education.

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