

Choosing the Right End Mark: Full Stops, Question Marks and Exclamation Marks

Key points

- In Year 2, children learn to choose between three end marks based on the purpose of the sentence: telling, asking, or showing strong feeling.
- A full stop is used for statements that simply tell us something.
- A question mark is used when a sentence asks something, usually indicated by a rising tone in speech.
- An exclamation mark is used to show strong emotion, such as surprise, excitement, or anger, rather than just any excitement.
- The best way to choose the right mark is to read the sentence aloud and listen to the tone of voice used.

Things to try at home

- Read a sentence aloud with different tones (flat, rising, or emphatic) and ask your child which mark fits best.
- Play a game where you write three sentences on paper and ask your child to add the correct end mark.
- Spot end marks in everyday items like shopping lists, text messages, or storybooks during bedtime reading.

Find out more

- Ask your child's Year 2 teacher for specific examples or worksheets used in class.
- Visit the GOV.UK website for the National Curriculum English programme of study for Key Stage 1.