

Punctuation & Canada

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Mostafa Nazari & Daniel Shaw

Punctuation and Canada

Booklet 1

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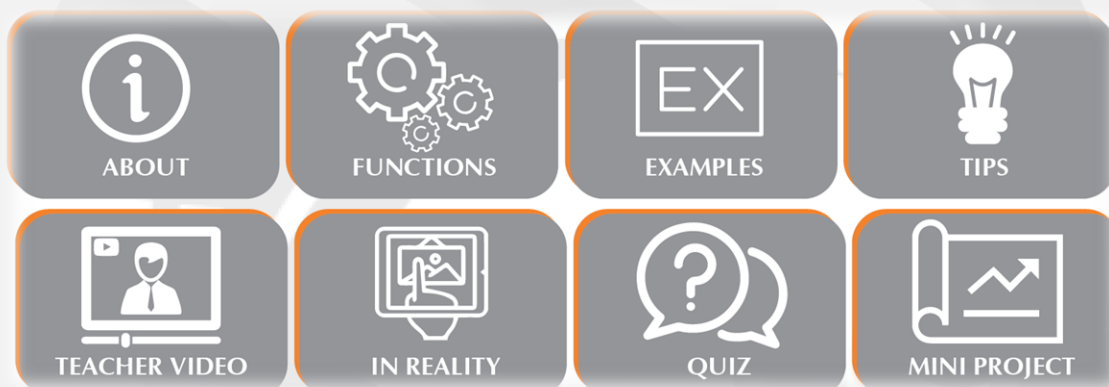
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Preface

About This Booklet

Writing is the most important skill for academic and workplace success. People need to master punctuation marks in order to structure and organize their sentences in any form of written communication.

Punctuation and Canada booklet 1 will provide you with an opportunity to learn and practice punctuation marks that will help you write more correct sentences in any medium ranging from daily chats to official documents. This booklet contains two chapters: Terminal Marks & Pausing Marks, and each chapter has the following 8 sections: definition, functions, examples, tips, teacher video, punctuation in reality, quiz, and a mini project.



One thing that makes this book unique is the examples and explanations which are all about Canada, its provinces, and some popular cities such as Vancouver. By reading these examples not only will you learn several facts about this country but you will also improve your knowledge of the punctuation marks.

How to Read This E-book

- Have a **quick look** at each chapter and think about what you already know
- Start learning each mark by reading the “**About**” section and then go to each function
- Click on the **video** and watch your teacher reading and explaining what to do
- Click on photos with the **touch finger**  and watch a short video
- While reading, **think about** similar examples about your country or city
- Read the **tips** to make sure you know more details about each mark
- Read the section “**In reality**” to see how punctuation marks happen in the real world
- Take the **quiz** at the end of each chapter to check your understanding
- Do the **mini-project** in each chapter and post/send your project to us! Instagram 

About the Authors



Dr. Mostafa Nazari (PhD TESL | Diploma TESOL)

Mostafa has been teaching writing and research courses at the university level in Vancouver. He has developed various educational courses with easy-to-follow, interactive designs.



Daniel Shaw (MA TESOL | Diploma TESOL)

Daniel is an experienced English language educator with over a decade of worldwide teaching practice. His teaching philosophy is grounded on the principles of strong interaction with students.

Overview

History



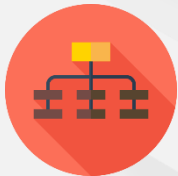
Historians believe that punctuation was invented to show how a text should be read aloud. Greek playwrights were using some basic symbols to show where actors should pause, and Aristophanes of Byzantium (c257– c185 BC) invented a formal system of punctuation.

What Is Punctuation?



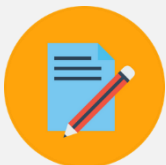
Punctuation marks help readers to understand the intention of writers. These marks act as traffic lights in sentences and paragraphs we create. Sometimes we want our readers to stop, slow down, and pay attention while reading our sentences.

Why Punctuation?



Punctuation is one of the most important aspects of written English. We use it to organize our words and sentences. Also, we finish our sentences, make a pause, add more information, quote and more by using these marks. We do the same in speaking with pauses and changes in tones of voice.

Where to Use Punctuation?



Punctuation marks are used in all kinds of writing: sentences, paragraphs, essays, emails, letters, social media posts, academic projects, research papers, etc.

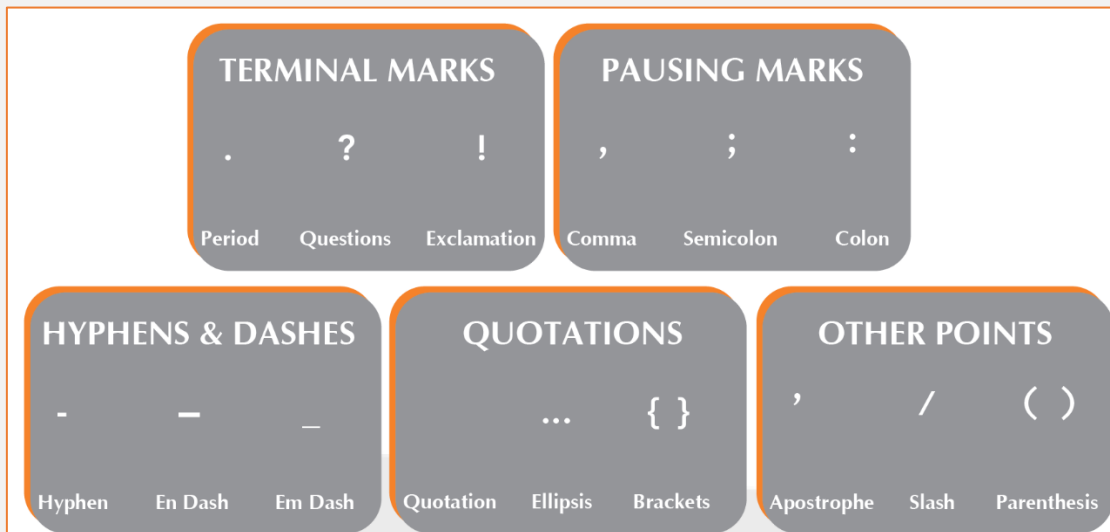
Who Needs Punctuation?



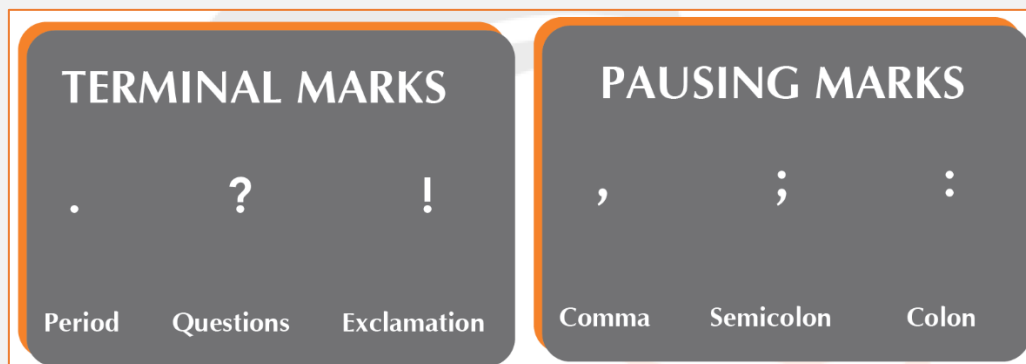
Students, teachers, business people, contract writers, researchers, and anyone who writes needs to master them.

Punctuation at a Glance!

One way to classify the punctuation marks is to put them in 5 categories.



This e-book covers terminal marks & pausing marks (6 items).



Enjoy reading this theme-based e-book. All the examples are about Canada, its provinces, and beautiful Vancouver! Can you write similar examples about your country?



Read the advanced version (booklet 2) of this e-book for the total punctuation marks (15 items).

Chapter 1

TERMINAL MARKS

. ? !

Period

Question

Exclamation

Terminal marks appear at the end of sentences.



Chapter 1 Full Video
Click here to watch your
teacher!

CLICK HERE



Period Mark .



Your Teacher is Teaching
the Period Mark.

About

The main function of a period mark is to end a sentence. There are 3 other uses which you can find below:

1. It ends a sentence.

Example: Vancouver is one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

2. It is used in an indirect question.

Example: I don't know why Vancouver has the mildest climate in Canada.

*Click here to know more about indirect questions. [CLICK HERE](#)

3. It is used with abbreviations.

Example: There is a gun in Stanley Park that is shot at 9 p.m. every night.

*More abbreviation examples: etc., B.C., Vol., Mrs., Inc.

4. It is used to shorten a word.

Example: Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden is in Vancouver.

(More examples: Monday: Mon. / January: Jan. / Doctor: Dr.)



Quick Tips!

- The word “Period” is North American English, and full stop is British English.
- If a sentence ends with a question or exclamation mark, the period is omitted.
Example: Where is Science World?
- We do not use a period mark with uppercase abbreviations.
Example: FBI, VPD (Vancouver Police Department).

Question Mark ?



Your Teacher is Teaching
the Question Mark.

About

The question mark changes a statement into a question.

1. It is used at the end of direct questions.

Example: How old is Vancouver? (about 134 years old)



2. It directs question within a sentence.

Example: “Do you love English Bay?”, She asked.

*Click on the picture and watch English Bay back in 1933!



3. It appears when the question mark is part of the title.

Example: Have you seen ‘Are We There Yet’?

A movie shot in Vancouver.

*Click and watch the movie trailer!



Quick Tips!

- It is not a good idea to combine question a mark with other marks.
Example: Was the original name of Vancouver Granville?!
- Requests that are phrased as questions should end with a period.
Example: Would you please send this report to the person indicated on the cover.

Exclamation Mark !



Your Teacher is Teaching
the Exclamation Mark.

About

The exclamation mark is used to show **surprise** or **emphasis** at the end of sentences.

1. At the end of the sentence to show strong emotions.

Example: Vancouver is home to Canada's longest swimming pool!! (Kitsilano Pool)



2. To show extra anger, excitement, or surprise.

Example: Wow! I love Stanley Park!



3. To give command.

Example: Go and ride your bike along the Seawall!



*The Seawall is a stone wall that was constructed around the Stanley Park.

Quick Tips!

- Make sure not to use exclamation marks in formal writing.
- Do not use two marks (question and exclamation) together.
- If using this mark in a quotation, use this format.

Example: "Get out!" Jack said.

Terminal Marks in Reality

Look at the Instagram post, showing Stanley Park in Vancouver, Canada.

Can you see the use of a period, a question mark and an exclamation mark here?



How about you take a photo and describe it by using the correct terminal marks?

Quiz (Chapter 1)

Now, it is the time to check your knowledge of the terminal marks.
Take this short quiz (10 questions) and see the result instantly!



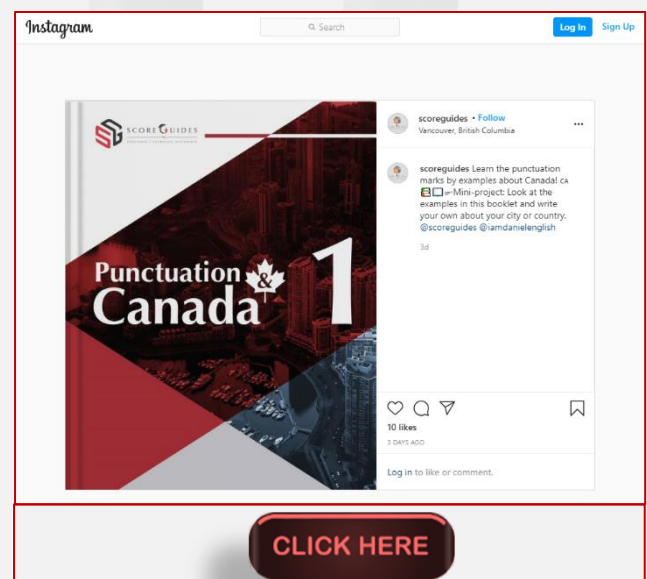
Mini Project (Chapter 1)

Now, it is the time to have some fun and do an amazing project!

Instructions:

- Write 1 or 2 sentences about your city, neighborhood, or university
- Make sure the terminal marks are used correctly
- Go to our Instagram post by clicking on this link and share your examples with the world
- Visit our page often to see the other posts/comments

[Click here to post your examples on Instagram >](#)



Chapter 2

PAUSING MARKS

,

;

:

Comma

Semicolon

Colon

Pausing marks create pauses of various degree in sentences.



Chapter 2 Full Video
Click here to watch your
teacher!

CLICK HERE



Comma Marks ,



Your Teacher is Teaching
the Comma Mark.

About

Commas play an important role in our writing because an improper use of them might change the meaning of a sentence completely. Commas have three main functions: **Mechanical, Listing, Separating!**

A. Mechanical Comma

1. Use commas with numbers.

A. Four-digit numbers: after the first digit

Example: Vancouver usually receives 1,589 mm of rain per year.

*Page numbers, years, and street numbers are the exceptions

B. Larger numbers: after every third digit to the left

Example: Vancouver's population was 2,581,000 in 2020.

2. Use it when referring to someone directly.

Example: Thank you, Kennedy Stewart, for making Vancouver more beautiful.

*Mr. Stewart is the 40th Mayor of Vancouver.

*Watch Vancouver Mayor Kennedy Stewart condemning anti-Asian racism.

3. It is used for referring to dates.

Example: Canada returned its nuclear weapons to the United States on June 28, 1984.

*Format: Month + Day + Year

4. It is used to refer to geographic places.

Example: Queen Elizabeth Park is located in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.



B. Listing Comma



1. Use it for listing nouns.

Example: Tourists like to try salmon, sushi, and gelato in Vancouver.



2. Use it for listing phrases or clauses.

Example: With comfort, a relaxed mind, you can walk in Vancouver at midnight.

*Structure: Phrase + phrase + independent clause



3. Use it when listing adjectives.

Example: I had a lovely, long, comfortable flight to Vancouver.

*Harbour Air is a popular seaplane airline in Vancouver. Click on the picture!



4. Use it for listing adverbs with an adjective for emphasis.

Example: The Butchart Gardens are very, unbelievably beautiful.

* Very/unbelievably are adverbs and beautiful is an adjective.

C. Separating Comma



1. Use it to divide non-essential words or phrases in a sentence.

Example: The food in Vancouver has been, frankly, expensive.

*Frankly is an extra word that can be deleted.



2. Use it to set off (set apart) non-essential information in a sentence.

Example: The length of B.C.'s coastline, including the shorelines of islands, is 27,200 kilometres.

*Watch this wonderful documentary (Canada Over the Edge).



3. Use it with non-essential relative clauses in complex sentences.

Example: The skyscrapers in downtown Vancouver, which are luxurious, are everywhere.

*'Which are luxurious' is an in-definite relative clause that gives extra information for the noun (skyscrapers).

Quick Tips!

- **Be careful when using a comma in the middle of a sentence.**
Example: The first electric streetlights in Vancouver on August 8, 1887, were lit by the city.
- **One of the biggest mistakes in students' writing are comma splices when two independent clauses are connected with only a comma.**
Incorrect: Vancouver has thousand islands, it has one of the longest coastlines in North America.
Correct: Vancouver has thousand islands. It has one of the longest coastlines in North America. (One possible option)

Semicolon Mark ;



Your Teacher is Teaching
the Semicolon Mark.

About

Semicolon mark creates a pause, usually between two main clauses. Semicolon is stronger than comma when a pause is needed; however, it is weaker than the period mark.



1. We use it between independent clauses to create a compound sentence.

Example: Around 50 % of the residents in Vancouver are not Vancouverites; the city is famous for its ethnically diverse population.



2. We use it between independent clauses with a conjunctive adverb to create a compound sentence.

Some conjunctive adverbs: however, consequently, moreover, for example, etc.

Example: The eco-activist group Greenpeace was founded in Vancouver in 1971; consequently, this city is a pioneer in preserving the environment.

3. It is used as a super-comma in lists with comma.

Example: The Nordstrom in Vancouver offers fancy brands on the lower level; Burberry, Fendi, Gucci, Prada, and home decors on the second floor; lighting and lamps, pictures frames, and rugs.

**Watch the opening day at Nordstrom Vancouver.*



Quick Tips!

- Use semicolon to make your writing more advanced.
- It is stronger/longer than comma, but weaker than period.
- Do not overuse the semicolon mark in your writing.

Colon Mark :



Your Teacher is Teaching the Colon Mark.

About

Colon has both **grammatical** and **nongrammatical** uses!

Three Grammatical Uses

1. It introduces a list.

Example: The City of Vancouver has a number of streets named after Spanish people: Cordova, Cardero, Valdez and Narvaez.



2. It appears between two independent clauses when the second explains the first.

Example: B.C. is home to the two largest Douglas fir trees in Canada: Red Creek Fir (73.25 meters) is in the San Juan River Valley, and Big Lonely Doug (70.2 meters) is near Port Renfrew, Vancouver Island.

*Click and watch the Big Lonely Doug!



3. It is used to emphasize a phrase at the end of a sentence.

Example: 40,000 islands, more than 600 provincial parks: this is British Columbia.

*Click and watch one of the most beautiful islands in Vancouver: Bowen Island.



Three Nongrammatical Uses



Gastown Steam Clock

1. To refer to time. It separates hours from minutes.

Example: Time (7:00)



2. To refer to ratio of two numbers.

Example: (1:5)

*A ratio says how much of one thing there is compared to another thing.



3. In business and personal letter/email writing.

Example:

Dear Vancouverites:

cc: or bcc:

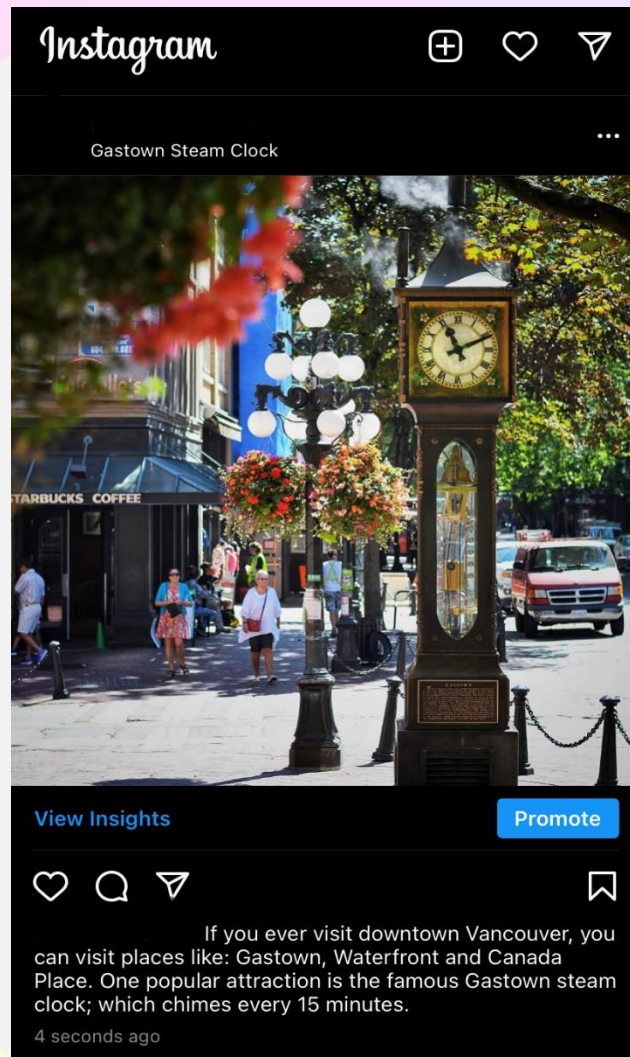
Attention: Mayor Stewart

Quick Tips!

- Do not use colon after a verb for listing.
Incorrect: Vancouver climate includes: rain,...
- A colon mark might come between two independent clauses when the second one tries to explain or paraphrase the first one.
Example: Vancouver is indeed expensive: the costs of living are not comparable to the other provinces. The underlined section explains the first part.

Pausing Marks in Reality

This post shows the famous Vancouver Steam Clock, located in Gastown. Use this to help you identify the use of a comma, colon and semi colon!



How about you take a photo and describe it by using the correct pausing marks?

Quiz (Chapter 2)

Now, it is the time to check your knowledge of the pausing marks.
Take this short quiz (10 questions) and see the result.



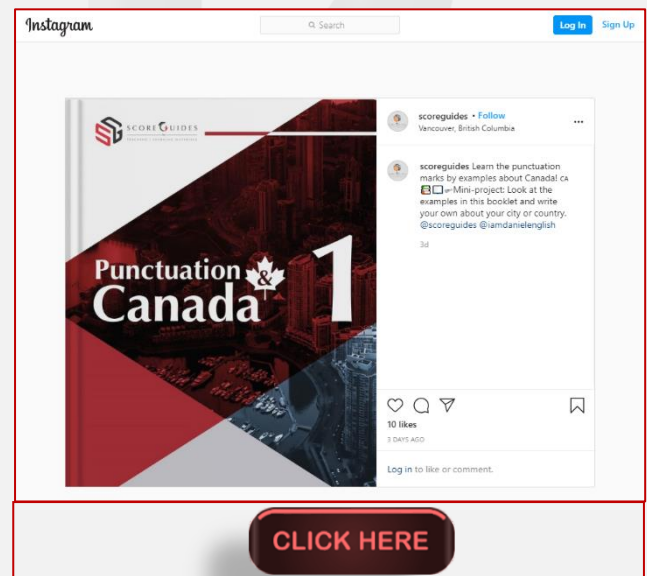
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Instructions:

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- Make sure the pausing marks are used correctly
- Go to our Instagram post by clicking on this link and share your examples with the world
- Visit our page often to see the other posts/comments

[Click here to post your examples on Instagram >](#)



Extra Resources

01

The Punctuation Guide

[CLICK HERE](#)

02

English Club Punctuation Marks

[CLICK HERE](#)

03

Canada Facts for Kids

[CLICK HERE](#)

04

25 Amazing Facts about Canada

[CLICK HERE](#)



SCORE GUIDES YouTube Channel

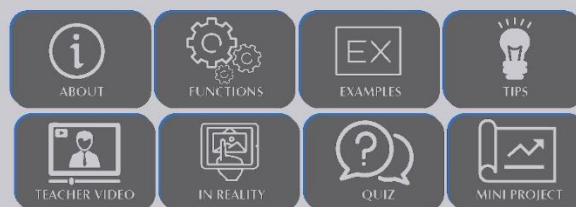
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Punctuation in Canada (Booklet 1) is an essential guide for any English learner. This small, yet powerful booklet will guide you through the basics of punctuation, along with real life examples, video content, quizzes and projects, to give you all the tools needed to master punctuation!



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