



Growing Your Grammar Skills

Understanding Punctuation

**Grades
4-6**



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A **period** (.) goes at the end of declarative sentences.

Th **Bernie watched the exciting race.** he

Please help Jennifer with the math problem.

In **I cannot remember where I put my book.** t

Now it's your turn to come up with a few declarative sentences.



Look at this sentence:

Why didn't Maria finish the exercises

Does it need a period or a question mark at the end?



There is a simple way to tell if a sentence needs a period or a question mark:

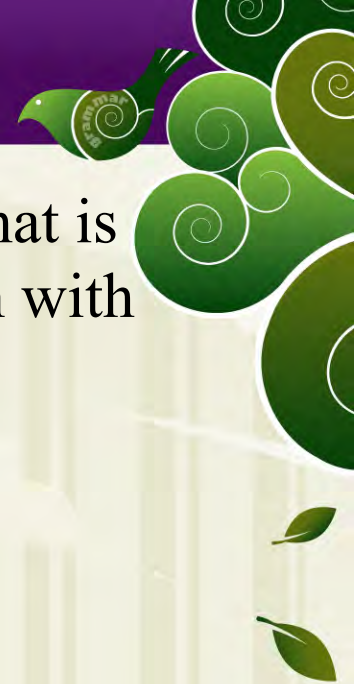
Does the sentence ask a question that *needs an answer*? If it does, use a question mark. Otherwise, use a period.

Why didn't Maria finish the exercises



Commas

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Commas (,) are the most common mark of punctuation. That is true because they probably have the most uses. Let's begin with the first use of commas.

Commas *separate items* in a series.

What is a *series*? “Series” is another word for a list of elements in a sentence that match in form and importance.



Look at this sentence:

The football player ate eggs, bacon, toast, a sandwich, two glasses of orange juice, and a muffin for breakfast.

What are the items in the series?

That football player sure eats a lot!