

How authors use and experiment with punctuation

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Learning intention

- understand how authors use and experiment with punctuation

Teach and model

- using colons and semicolons in expositions and other extended texts to add detail or extend an idea
- examining an author's use of ellipses to create tentativeness in a character's speech
- reviewing the use of punctuation to represent emotions; for example, the use of multiple exclamation marks or punctuation emojis

Check understanding

- Explain the main idea in how authors use and experiment with punctuation using an example.
- Show the idea in a second way: with words, a model, a diagram or symbols.
- Apply the idea to a short unfamiliar situation and justify the result.

Teaching cautions

- Ask the student to explain their choice, not only state an answer.
- Check that key vocabulary is understood in a new example.
- Mix representations so the skill is transferred rather than copied.

Quick lesson sequence

- Connect to prior knowledge and introduce the key vocabulary.
- Model one clear example, then solve a second example together.
- Finish with an independent check and a short student explanation.