

Exclamation Point

An exclamation point is considered as less popular than other punctuation marks. However, its function is very simple and is easy to use.

The primary function of this punctuation mark is to indicate a strong feeling in written words. This includes forceful emotions such as anger, joy, surprise, and even strong commands. As long as the author wants to express an emotional outburst, an exclamation mark or point is used.

To further guide you on how to use this, rules are stated below:

- Exclamation point to express a strong command and declaration.

When a writer wants to express emotions on a text, an exclamation mark is placed at the end of a word or a sentence.

Examples:

1. “Hey! I thought you already left.”
2. “Ouch! My feet hurt a lot.”
3. “Don’t open the door!”
4. “Hi! What’s the matter?”

- Exclamation point replaces a period at the end of a sentence. It also replaces a mid-sentence comma.

Examples:

1. Don’t forget your laundry.! (*incorrect*)
1. Don’t forget your laundry! (*correct*)

2. Yes! I got the scholarship! (*correct*)

Yes!, I got the scholarship!

3. Run! The dog is chasing us! (*correct*)

Run!, The dog is chasing us!

4. Watch out! (*correct*)

Watch out.!

- Exclamation point for rhetorical questions

A rhetorical question is a question that requires no answer. When writing this, the author may decide to use either a question mark or an exclamation point depending on the purpose.

Examples:

1. How can I ever thank you!
2. Is this supposed to be a joke!
3. Who cares!
4. What's the matter with the kids today!

- Exclamation point as part of the title

When a title ends with an exclamation point, comma should be retained.

Examples:

1. Peter wrote this exciting book, "Don't Scream!," which became a hot topic in our discussion yesterday.
2. His title, "Amaze me!," hit the public last week.
3. Jemma's recent essay, "Run!," was noticed by the board of directors.
4. The newspaper headline, "Slayed!," caught the students' attention.

EXERCISES

Indicate whether the following sentences below follow the rules of using exclamation points or not. Write Yes or No. If no, explain why.

1. What in the world are you doing up there?!
2. "Leave me alone!" James yelled.
3. His latest write up, "Make a Noise!," is his most popular book.
4. How despicable!?
5. Shut up! You don't know what you're talking about!!!
6. "It serves you right!" she screamed.
7. "Get out!," Marcus yelled.
8. After few years of working at Yahoo!, he accepted the sales manager position at Apple.
9. What is your teacher's name!
10. Yes, I will marry you. (surprised)
11. Stop! I don't want to go there.
12. My cat keeps saying Meow! all the time.
13. No, I do not want to go. (forced)
14. Let's go to the beach!
15. Don't touch that!

ANSWER KEY

Indicate whether the following sentences below follow the rules of using exclamation points or not. Write Yes or No. If no, explain why.

ANSWERS

1. What in the world are you doing up there?! NO
2. "Leave me alone!" James yelled. YES
3. His latest write up, "Make a Noise!," is his most popular book. YES
4. How despicable! NO
5. Shut up! You don't know what you're talking about!!! NO
6. "It serves you right!" she screamed. YES
7. "Get out!," Marcus yelled. NO
8. After few years of working at Yahoo!, he accepted the sales manager position at Apple.
YES
9. What is your teacher's name! NO
10. Yes, I will marry you. (surprised) NO
11. Stop! I don't want to go there. YES
12. My cat keeps saying Meow! all the time. YES
13. No, I do not want to go. (forced) NO
14. Let's go to the beach! YES
15. Don't touch that! YES