Punctuation is important when emailing, points and question marks when texting and exclamation marks in emails and letters and rules again. Some people leave out capitalization, apostrophes, and other punctuation marks. Readers need to know what somebody is saying; it’s hard to tell before a word or a phrase in a speech. For example, ancient Greeks had periods, commas, and other punctuation marks to help the reader figure out your message in texts and emails too. Use the punctuation rules that fit what you’re writing. Commas change meaning. If you put a punctuation mark in the wrong place, it can completely change the meaning of the sentence. For example, compare these two sentences. How does the comma change the meaning?

**Call me, Tom!**

**Call me Tom!**

The confusing apostrophe

Apostrophes are used to show possession, for example, “the cat’s paws,” “the dog’s leashes” (two or more dogs). Apostrophes are also used to show that a word has been left out, as in “don’t” instead of “do not.” Apostrophes are NOT used to make words plural.

**Try ‘n’ Find**

Words that remind us of punctuation are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

- APOSTROPHES
- COMMAS
- EXCLAMATION POINTS
- LANGUAGE MARKS
- MEANING
- MESSAGE
- PERIOD
- PLURAL
- POSSESSIVE
- QUESTION
- PUNCTUATION
- QUESTION MARK
- RULES
- SENTENCE
- SOUND
- TEXTS
- WRITE

**Cook’s Corner**

**Broccoli With Orange Sauce**

**You’ll need:**
- 1 medium broccoli crown
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 2 tablespoons orange marmalade
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- A pinch of salt
- 2 teaspoons chopped walnuts (optional)

**What to do:**
1. Cut broccoli into florets. Place in microwavable bowl with water; cover and microwave on high for 3 to 4 minutes.
2. Combine olive oil, orange juice and marmalade in a small saucepan. Cook over medium heat until mixture starts to bubble slightly.
3. Drain broccoli, chop as desired, and sprinkle salt and pepper to taste.

**Mini Quiz:** How many different ways can you punctuate the headline “The bunny hopped over the stick.”? How does it change the meaning?

**Mini Jokes**

**Pam:** What did the student say when the teacher asked him to use the word “cousin” in a sentence? **Pam:** “I put on my mittens ‘cousin’ the winter’s my hands get cold!”

**Eco Note**

Planet Earth supports millions of species. All life on Earth is known as the biosphere. Despite the enormous abundance of life on Earth, the biosphere is actually tiny compared to the total size of the planet. The vast majority of Earth — around 99.9 percent, including the upper atmosphere and the lower ocean — is too hot, too cold or has too little water or oxygen to be able to support life.

**For later:** Look through your newspaper for examples of punctuation used correctly.

**Teachers:** For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit the Teacher's Corner. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!

**Next Week:** What’s up in space?

**THE MINI PAGE®** Founded by Betty Debnam

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**Mini Quiz:**

- 1. Group of words with a complete thought (fuller noun)
- 2. True, right; factual; not wrong (fuller ad)
- 3. Someone who jumps down a words, numbers, or an author (fuller noun)
- 4. Short writing on a new line and having more than one sentence (fuller noun)

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**ROOTONYM®** by Judy and Casey Cee Cee

1. Made this
2. Janet gave the answer to the hard question.
3. Greg plans to be... because he enjoys reading.
4. Tony wrote one long

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**At the end**

The period, question mark and exclamation point all come to the end of a sentence. They tell the reader about the writer’s tone of voice.

The period shows the writer is making a simple statement. “Ali, did her homework?”

The question mark is exactly what it sounds like it shows someone is asking a question. “Ali, have you done your homework yet?”

The exclamation point shows somebody is surprised or excited. “Yay!! I am all done with my homework!”

Use a colon when the second part of the sentence explains the first part. “Becky couldn’t speak; she was so shy.”

Use a semicolon to link two thoughts together. “I remember Becky when she was little; now she’s so grown-up.”

**Resources**

**On the Web:**
- bit.ly/MPpunctuation

**At the library:**
- “Leaves” by Lynne Truss
- “Let’s Eat Grandma!” by Karina Law

**Mini Say Booklets** (Volumes 1, 2 and 3) feature 48 of your favorite puzzles from The Mini Page. Find them adapted in two booklets from a list of titles.

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