

Teaching Notes

Activities

1. Ask students to work with a partner. Assign each pair two different versions of the same paragraph: one that is missing all punctuation and one that shows different kinds of punctuation used correctly. Direct the students to first read the paragraph without any punctuation, then read the corrected version. Have the students take turns answering the question *How does each piece of punctuation make it easier to read a text?* Once they have finished, have each group share their findings as part of a class discussion.
2. Assign students a list of sentences that lack end marks. Ask students to identify the type of punctuation that should be used to complete each sentence and how they arrived at their conclusions. Include a few sentences that could use different end marks depending on context, such as a sentence that could be declarative or exclamatory.

Writing Prompts

1. Review with students some of the ways that punctuation can be used to achieve different effects in a text. Then direct them to write an example sentence using each of the following:
 - A period at the end of a sentence that makes a statement
 - A period at the end of a sentence that gives a command
 - A question mark at the end of a sentence that requests information
 - An exclamation point at the end of a sentence that shows strong feeling
2. Provide students a copy of a brief literary text that has had all punctuation removed. Ask students to read the text and add punctuation where appropriate. Then direct students to write a brief sentence to explain each choice they made. Once they are finished, provide the original text and ask students to compare their punctuation with the author's.

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching L.4.3.b. They provide teachers with sample questions, worksheets, and online exercises that could be used to test students on how to choose punctuation for effect:

- <http://www.education.com/worksheets/fourth-grade/punctuation/>
- <http://www.k12reader.com/subject/grammar/punctuation/>
- <http://www.worksheetplace.com/index.php?function=DisplayCategory&showCategory=Y&links=3&id=96&link1=43&link2=94&link3=96>
- <http://www.timeforkids.com/homework-helper/grammar-wizard/punctuation-practice>
- http://www.kubbu.com/student/?i=1&a=7073_end_mark_punctuation
- <http://www.englishforeveryone.org/Topics/Punctuation.htm>