Activity 6: Punctuation
# Punctuation

## CEFR Level: A2/B1 (10 -12 year olds)

| Activity Aims: | Students should be able to  
|               | • Identify how punctuation changes the meaning of a sentence.  
|               | • Identify and correct incorrect punctuation in a passage.  
|               | • Learn how to use a full stop and comma appropriately.  
|               | • Correctly punctuate a passage using full stops and commas. |

| Strategy/Pedagogy | Explicit instruction, pair work. |

| Short Description | In this lesson, students will identify how the use of full stops and commas changes the meaning of a sentence. They will also identify and correct incorrect punctuation in a passage, and punctuate a passage with no punctuation. |
Introduction – Part 1

1. Explain to the students when they should use a full stop and when they should use a comma.

2. Students should be able to tell you that full stops are used at the end of a sentence, and commas are used when:
   - you need to pause.
   - you introduce a new idea in the sentence.
   - you have multiple items to introduce.

3. If students are unable to come up with these functions, give them an example of how the full stop or comma is used and elicit answers from them. If they provide other uses, acknowledge them but inform them that we will be focusing only on the ones stated above for this lesson.
4. Explain that not inserting the punctuation in the right place can change the meaning of a sentence entirely. Start with a simple but humorous example:

- Let’s eat, Grandpa.
- Let’s eat Grandpa.

5. Ask the students to explain the difference between the meanings of the two sentences to check their understanding.

6. Ask the students to discuss in pairs:
   i. What is the difference in meaning between the two sentences?
   ii. Why is the meaning different?

7. Students should be able to point out that the difference in meaning is due to the different punctuation.

**Other examples to use:**

Most of the time, travellers worried about their luggage.
Most of the time travellers worried about their luggage.

I would like to tell you that I love you. I can’t stop thinking you are the kindest person on Earth.
I would like to tell you that I love you. I can’t. Stop thinking you are the kindest person on Earth.
Main Activity

1. Students complete Handout 1 which asks them to identify the incorrect punctuation (either a full stop or a comma) in a passage.

   They must correct the wrong punctuation. Teachers may choose to have students complete this activity individually or in pairs.

   Students will then compare their answers with another student/pair, before the teacher goes through the correct answers with the whole class.

2. In pairs, students then complete Handout 2. In this activity, students will be required to punctuate a passage that does not have any punctuation.
Extension Activities

1. Students can write out other short sentences with incorrect punctuation and get their classmates to rewrite the sentences using the correct punctuation.

2. For handout 2, teachers may give weaker students a passage with some punctuation already filled in.

Reference:
https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/activities-for-learners/b2w005-full-stops-and-commas