

Sample punctuation testers

In each of the following six sections, you must decide whether or not the punctuation is right, wrong, ambiguous or missing, and amend each sentence or phrase accordingly.

1. Apostrophes

Today's specials – cuppa soups!

The ladies room.

The children's parents are here.

We sell video's and CD's.

The three managers' offices.

The organisation's offices. (one organisation)

Its lift was out of order.

It's yours; theirs is over here.

The committee members arrived late.

His and hers gifts.

2. Homonyms etc.

They're intended for recycling.

Whose are you're line-manager's?

When they're upset, they're mum says their, their.

The effect of the training course was greater than she had thought.

Her colleagues were affected by it too.

Who's shoes are these?

3. Speech punctuation

Easy reading is damn hard writing said Nathaniel Hawthorne

A company spokesperson said the cheque is in the post

The fault with the cable said the engineer is nothing to do with us

The company has apologised said the manager that is the end of the matter

4. Commas

Let's eat Grandma.

The driver escaped from the car before it sank and swam to shore.

The athlete carried on clutching his side as he went.

I find Chilean wines much nicer than French Austrian or Italian ones.

She was a pretty funny intelligent girl.

5. Commas or semi-colons

Don't guess use a timer or watch.

The strike was over however the unions were not happy.

The fire lasted several hours but no-one was hurt.

The report came out yesterday it got lots of press coverage.

6. Hyphens

To resign officially, take this pen and resign this document.

She was a tall small business owner.

Do counter revolutionaries fight against counters? No!

The ten-year old child played that finely tuned piano well.

A self assured high school boy who is not on drugs.