

Identify the Ending Punctuation

This activity can serve as a quick, informal assessment of students' ability to distinguish among statements, questions, commands, and exclamations. The ability to detect the four types of sentences in oral language is necessary before expecting students to write the various sentence types. Students who can consistently identify each sentence type in this listening task, and write simple statements, are likely ready to begin writing the four types of sentences.

Materials:

- Printed punctuation cards (one set per student, or one set per pod)
- Scissors

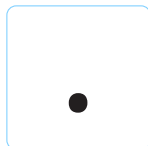
Directions:

1. Students cut out the ending punctuation cards.
2. Teacher reads each sentence aloud.
3. Students listen to identify the sentence type and hold up the punctuation card that matches the type of sentence they hear.

Instructions:

Before beginning, review each punctuation card with students.

Hold up the period punctuation card and say,



"This is a period. This means you think the sentence is a statement. It is telling us something. For example, 'Our whole class is going to the park.'"
Or, a period can also be used at the end of a bossy command.
For example, 'Wait in line quietly.'"

Hold up the question mark punctuation card and say,



"This is a question mark. This means you think the sentence is a question. It is asking something.
For example, 'What is your favorite thing to play on at the park?'"

Hold up the exclamation point punctuation card and say,



"This is an exclamation point. We use it in a sentence to show emotion, like maybe something is exciting!
For example, 'I want to go down the slide first!'"

To begin the activity, say,

"I will read a sentence aloud. Listen carefully, decide what type of sentence you hear, and hold up the matching punctuation card. Try to make your own choice before looking at anyone else's card."

Read the sentences aloud, pausing after each one so students have time to respond. If needed, exaggerate your expression and intonation to help students hear the differences among sentence types.

1. Today was a very fun day!
2. My class went to the park.
3. Have you ever been to the park?
4. We played on the swings and went down the slide.
5. I loved the big red slide!
6. Take turns.
7. After playing, we had a picnic.
8. Did you eat fruit with your sandwich?
9. Play nice together.
10. It was the best day ever!

Teacher Tip: You may also substitute sentences that connect to your current classroom content to reinforce comprehension of curriculum topics. Remember to keep the sentence types clear and simple.

Student Instructions:

Cut each card along the dotted lines. Listen to the sentence then hold up the correct ending punctuation.



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