

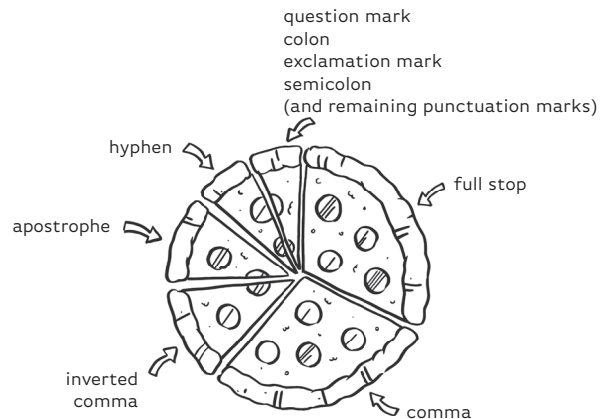
Answer Key

1. Why We Need Punctuation

OVER TO YOU

The three punctuation marks that can be placed at the end of a sentence (not all at once) are **the full stop, question mark and exclamation mark**. It is also possible for the second set of inverted commas (speech marks) and brackets to appear at the very end of a sentence, but you don't need to think about this until you start reading Chapter 24: Inverted Commas and Chapter 20: Brackets.

This pizza pie chart shows how frequently different punctuation marks appear in English texts.



In 2013, researchers from Newcastle University (led by Professor vivian Cook) scanned three novels, two newspapers, one business report and a few research papers, which combined contained 459,000 words. They then calculated the percentage of time the different punctuation marks appeared in the texts. I've created a table to show you their results:	full stop	31%
	comma	29%
	inverted comma	13%
	apostrophe	12%
	hyphen	7%
	question mark	3%
	colon	2%
	exclamation mark	2%
	semicolon (and remaining punctuation marks)	1%

2. Capital Letter

OVER TO YOU

Three missing capital letters:

'Two mysterious people live in my house: Somebody and Nobody. Somebody did it and Nobody knows who.'

This is a play-on-words joke: the common nouns 'somebody' and 'nobody' become proper nouns (people's names).

LEMON SQUEEZY

Dad didn't want every Tom, Dick and Harry using our front garden bench.

Rob Slater is training for the Winter olympics.

The Queen will deliver a speech at the House of Lords.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

An Englishman's home is his castle.

Year 6 mums and dads waited outside the National Gallery in London.

Would you rather have a house in the Big Apple or Silicon valley?

If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain.

Liz Chang, a Panorama journalist, reported live from Westminster.

Please, two more minutes, Dad. I'm not ready yet.

If Cinderella's shoe fit perfectly, then why did it fall off?

STEP IT UP

My brother bought two goldfish and named them one and Two.

If one dies, he'll still have two.

My brother won't have two fish, but he'll have the fish named Two.

'Can I have a bookmark?'

'My name is Mick.'

The second person heard, 'Can I have a book, Mark?'

I named my dog Five Miles so I can tell people that I walk five miles every day.

The phrase 'five miles' became a proper name after the first letters were capitalised.

I see no end, have no control and no home anymore.

I think it's time for a new keyboard.

Keyboard keys start with capital letters: End, Control, Home.

I used to be in a band called Lost Dog.

You probably saw our posters.

Titles in posters and notices are written in capital letters. 'Lost Dog' notices are more common than band posters.

I WRITE ALL MY JoKES IN CAPITALS.

THIS oNE WAS WRITTEN IN BERLIN.

When we say 'capitals' for 'capital letters', we mean 'upper case letters'.

STOP AND CHECK

I know a human as mad as a March hare.

BREEZE THROUGH

If Mondays were shoes, they wouldn't walk very far.

Mrs Ford always says Tuesday is just Monday's ugly sister.

Can February march? No, but April may.

Why are soldiers tired in April? They've had a long march. (*tired from marching*)

Why are soldiers tired in April? They've had a long March. (*tired of waiting for March to end*)

Did you know that May is the shortest month? It only has three letters.

Thirty days has September, April, June and November...

LEMON SQUEEZY

When the English language gets in my way, I create its next chapter.

The politician's speech is all double Dutch to me.

There's an Iranian proverb that says, 'Arabic is a language, Persian is a delicacy and Turkish is an art.'

When I speak German in class, there's no hiding place.

Did Julius Caesar speak Roman or Latin?

The English language is a child of German and French that was raised by the vikings.

OVER TO YOU

We asked the hairdresser whether it's called the French plait or French braid.

The class played Chinese Whispers all morning.

Scientists believe the Western world plays Russian roulette with antibiotics.

Autumn heatwaves are called Indian summers.

We always have Peking duck and Cantonese soup in this restaurant.

Every time we shop for furniture, we end up having Swedish meatballs.

I'd love to know how the Earth rotates; it would surely make my day.

STEP IT UP

A group of Northern European countries that includes Denmark, Norway and Sweden is called **Scandinavia**. The people who live there are **Scandinavians**.

Some people think that Poland is in Eastern Europe; others believe that it's part of Central Europe. That makes the Poles either **Eastern Europeans** or **Central Europeans**.

The ethnic group of Americans whose ancestors came from Africa are called **African Americans**.

Mexico, Central America and most of South America where Spanish is the primary language were once under Spanish rule. Their cultures are referred to as **Hispanic** cultures.

LEMON SQUEEZY

Q: Why were the early days of history called the Dark Ages?

A: Because there were so many knights!

Q: How was the Roman Empire cut in half?

A: With a pair of Caesars!

Q: How did the vikings send secret messages?

A: By Norse code!

(the Norse is the term for Medieval Norwegians or Scandinavians)

Q: What comes after the Bronze Age and the Iron Age?

A: The Heavy Metal age, Sir.

Q: Where did the Medieval King John sign the Magna Carta?

A: At the bottom.

STEP IT UP

The Festival of Lights and the Feast of Dedication are two other names for a Jewish holiday that is observed for eight days and nights, and is called **Hanukkah**.

Hanging stockings out comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for St Nicholas's donkeys. St Nicholas would leave small gifts in return. This religious festival is called **Christmas**.

Diwali is an important religious festival in India celebrated between October and November. People often think of it as a Hindu festival, but it is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains.

Chinese New Year starts a new animal's zodiac year. In China, each lunar cycle has 60 years and 12 years is regarded as a small cycle. Each of the 12 years is defined by an animal sign. 2020 is the Year of the Rat and 2021 is the Year of the ox.

Easter, a Christian holiday, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. During Holy Week, Holy Thursday commemorates the time when the last supper was held. Good Friday commemorates Jesus's crucifixion and death.

During **Ramadan**, which lasts a month, Muslims don't eat or drink between dawn and sunset. Fasting helps them devote themselves to their faith and get closer to Allah. It is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, which form the basis of how Muslims live their lives.

The word 'carol' means dance or song of praise and joy. Carols used to be sung during all four seasons, but the tradition of singing them at **Christmas** is the only one to survive.

LEMON SQUEEZY

I just got hit on the head with a power tool. I was sitting there minding my own business, the next thing I know, Bosch!

Samsung, iPhone or Motorola – I can't picture myself without a camera phone.

Honestly, ice hockey is just a bunch of people fighting for the last oreo.

If Apple built a house, would it have Windows?

I just stepped on some Cheerios on the floor. You can call me a cereal killer!

Why did the yellow M&M go to school? Because it wanted to be a Smartie.

There's a new a travel guide highlighting towns and cities with badly laid paving slabs. It's called TripAdvisor!

I thought I'd use my Tesco Clubcard to scrape the ice off my windscreen, but I could only get 10% off.

STEP IT UP

ICT – Information and Communication Technologies

AKA – also known as

DIY – do it yourself

FAQ – frequently asked questions

ETA – estimated time of arrival

BAFTA – British Academy of Film and Television Arts

RSvP – from French 'répondez s'il vous plait', which means 'please respond'

DoB – date of birth

RSPCA – Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

NATo – North Atlantic Treaty organisation

LGBT – lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender

PTo – please turn over

NHS – National Health Service

MMxIx is 2019, MMxx is 2020, and MMxxIII is 2023.

TAKE A BOW

I = 1

MIx = 1009

CC = 200

CD = 400

Cv = 105

DC = 600

MC = 1100

MD = 1500

Liv = 54

DI = 501

3. Full Stop

BREEZE THROUGH

Everything is funnier when you are not allowed to laugh.

My first name is Joe. My surname is Brown.

It's easier to pull than to push. It's also easier to sit than to stand.

Every class has one really funny student.

Dan bought chicken and Eastern spice. He is a fan of Moroccan kebabs.

I am told I am too cool for school.

Chocolate is God's apology for broccoli.

I didn't know Ankara was the capital of Turkey.

STEP IT UP

It's not true he wrote the letter. (*he didn't write the letter*)

It's not true. He wrote the letter. (*the truth is that he wrote the letter*)

Easy does it.

That was easy. Does it mean I can do it myself from now on?

It was true love.

It was true. Love struck Ahmed at the very moment he looked at Rabia.

We are trying to speak perfect French.

We are trying. To speak perfect French is to learn to roll your 'r's.

I don't know Katie. (*I don't know the girl called Katie*)

I don't know. Katie might. (*Katie might know the answer*)

We are friends forever.

We are friends. Forever seems shorter now.

OVER TO YOU

Sorry I'm late. I didn't want to come.

Ryan took a ruler to bed. He was upset it didn't say how long he slept.

Cinderella didn't make it to the football team. She ran away from the ball.

Dad's job is super confidential. He really hasn't got a clue what he's doing.

Some people say I'm lazy. I say I'm on energy saving mode.

Love is in the air. I'm going to wear my gas mask.

Fruit is 90% water. It is also 100% not pizza.

My teacher asked me to name all chemicals in the periodic table. I thought they already had names.

TAKE A BOW

I decided to clone myself. I thought I could send my clone to school while I stayed at home and played computer games. It obviously had to be a secret. I swore my cat Gremlin not to utter a single meow to anyone. I saw Dr Frankenbrain in the school lab and explained I needed to finish my old chemistry project. He let Gremlin be my guinea pig so long as he behaved himself. All was going well until Gremlin spotted a red dot on the cloning machine's controls and went mad chasing the light as well as its reflection on the wall. Dr Frankenbrain jumped in to help me manage the silly cat. The move was a disaster, as the place was full of fragile instruments and dangerous equipment. What I didn't know was that my teacher was really clumsy. He tripped over a cable and got zapped by the revving machine. Although he didn't get cloned, he became one fortieth of his normal size. He was much smaller than Gremlin.

I asked Dr Frankenbrain what I should do to get him back to his normal size. All I got back was a series of high-pitched squeaks. Gremlin the mad mice chaser did not wait for an invitation. He pounced on Dr Frankenbrain and ate him up in three superfast gulps. A shame really because I couldn't think of anyone else who could help me clone myself. As I was tidying up the lab, Gremlin gave out the loudest burp I've ever heard, which actually turned out to be my teacher's real voice...

4. Exclamation Mark

LEMON SQUEEZY

That mini heart attack you get when your foot slides down the stairs!

Stop talking and listen!

I'm so glad I don't have to take this test again!

Go! Don't look back! Go!

My sister asked me to pass her the chapstick, but I accidentally passed her a glue stick. She still hasn't spoken to me!

I can cut down a tree only using my vision. It's true, I saw it with my own eyes!

Three conspiracy theorists walk into a bar. You can't tell me that's just a coincidence!

So what if I don't know what apocalypse means? It's not the end of the world!

BREEZE THROUGH

Stop! You're ruining my new coat. or: Stop! You're ruining my new coat!

Maybe now is not the best time.

The seat is mine. Get over it!

I don't know why I couldn't sleep last night.

How exciting! I didn't know Mr Brantley is getting married.

Wow, I simply love it! or: Wow! I simply love it!

It's a really lovely meal. Thank you.

He's just won the lottery. You don't say!

Come back now!

I still think getting Ann a game was a better idea than a pack of socks.

Unbelievable! The dress was £100! or: Unbelievable! The dress was £100.

I can see a spider. Quick! Get it out of my bedroom!

Don't bite my arm off! It's only a joke.

It's very peaceful on this side of the hill.

You've managed to do it all in under an hour. That's amazing!

5. Question Mark

LEMON SQUEEZY

Would you mind helping me out?

of course. Which way did you come in?

What do you call security guards outside the Samsung shop?

Guardians of the Galaxy.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Little old lady.

Little old lady who?

I didn't know you could yodel!

Did you hear about the new reversible jackets?

I'm excited to see how they turn out.

Who is the laziest person on earth?

Whoever named the fireplace.

Did you hear about the little girl who went upstairs to get some medicine?

I think she's coming down with something.

Why is the human brain amazing?

It works as soon as you wake up and it doesn't stop until you get to school.

Change is hard.

Have you ever managed to bend a coin?

Mr Morris, why are maths books sad?

I don't know, Alfie. Why are they sad?

Because they have problems to solve.

Did you hear about the kidnapping at school?

It's okay. He woke up.

Isn't it scary that doctors call what they do 'practice'?

Pencils could be made with erasers at both ends, but what would be the point?

What do you call blueberries playing the guitar?

A jam session.

How many months of the year have 28 days?

All of them.

What time is it when 10 elephants are chasing you?

Ten to one.

Did you hear about the hungry clock?

It went back four seconds.

Why is 'abbreviation' such a long word?

Wouldn't exercise be more fun if calories screamed while you burned them?

Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions?

I do.

Why do seagulls fly over the sea?

Because if they flew over the bay, they'd be bagels.

Why do adults ask children what they want to be when they grow up?

They're looking for ideas.

Am I ambivalent? Well, yes and no.

The teacher said, 'Name two pronouns.'

I said, 'Who? Me?'

What's the difference between a good joke and a bad joke? Timing. (When the joke is written out using correct punctuation, it sadly loses its comical effect; it becomes a fact. If you want people who know punctuation rules to smile when you share it with them, stick to the unpunctuated version – only as a joke because it's then knowingly incorrectly punctuated.)

Why do people believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitos?

Isn't it amazing that the amount of news that happens around the world every day always exactly fits the newspaper?

Why do banks have their doors open but chain the pens to the counters?

What if there were no rhetorical questions?

6. Listing Comma

OVER TO YOU

1. She's a pretty, fast girl. (B)
2. She's a pretty fast girl. (A)

LEMON SQUEEZY

Chaos, panic, upset, shock and disorder – my work here is done.

Time doesn't exist but wrist watches, pocket watches, kinetic watches, digital watches, analogue watches, wall clocks, Grandpa clocks and all other clocks do.

Remember you are unique, one-of-a-kind, original and completely incomparable – just like everyone else.

Advice for those who don't succeed the first time: stop right there, redefine 'success', redefine 'at first' and destroy all evidence that you've tried.

If you make friends with someone, lend them money, watch them walk away and never see them again – the money was worth it.

I went to Ikea, hid in a wardrobe, waited for the first person to open it and shouted out 'Welcome to Narnia!'

So far, I've visited Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool and York.

We've seen all zoo animals apart from pandas, lemurs, otters, tamarins and elephants.

We had to calculate the cost of four cups of coffee and three cups of tea, check if £15 was enough to pay for all the drinks, work out the ratio between coffee and tea purchased, convert it into a percentage figure, show the findings in a diagram and report to the teacher. *(semicolons could also be used here in place of listing commas)*

Daisy's to-do list included tidying shelves and cupboards, writing a message to Mia, starting a geography homework, calling Grandad in Newport and browsing Amazon for a new pencil case. *(semicolons could also be used here in place of listing commas)*

7. Serial (Oxford) Comma

STEP IT UP

The best fruit are peaches, apples, wild strawberries and blueberries.

My brother is free at the weekend, Monday, and Wednesday. *(he will be working on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)*

Please may I order today's special deal, cheese, and biscuits? *(cheese and biscuits are two separate items)*

Please may I order today's special deal, cheese and biscuits? (*cheese and biscuits is today's special deal*)

We can't decorate your bedroom without new paint dustsheets, paintbrushes and a ladder.

My historical heroes are the Romans, Julius Caesar and Augustus.

My historical heroes are the Romans, Nelson, and Churchill. (*Nelson and Churchill are not Roman heroes*)

Please could we have two cheeseburgers, one bag of fish fingers, three packets of crisps and three glasses of water?

Don't forget to collect cat food, milk, flour and raspberry jam.

Harriet missed history, design technology and geography lessons because her bus broke down.

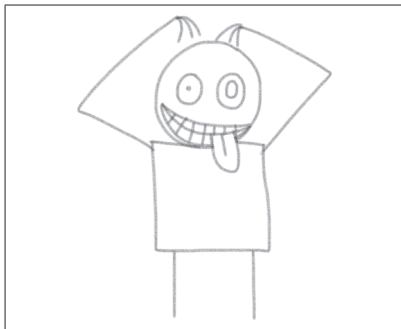
Who doesn't like the Queen's corgis, William, and Kate? (*William and Kate are not the names of the Queen's corgis*)

8. Name-Separating Comma

OVER TO YOU

1. Phil the policeman is here. (B) (Bob the builder is a similar phrase)
2. Phil, the policeman is here. (A)
3. Call him Jack and see if he answers. (C)
4. Call him, Jack, and see if he answers. (D)
5. If you like Zoya, I'll leave you. (F)
6. If you like, Zoya, I'll leave you. (E)
7. It's raining cats and dogs. (G)
8. It's raining, cats and dogs. (H)

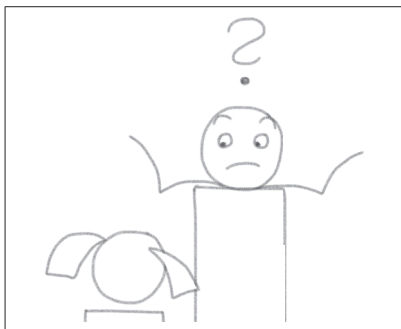
TAKE A BOW



I'm going bananas. [mad]



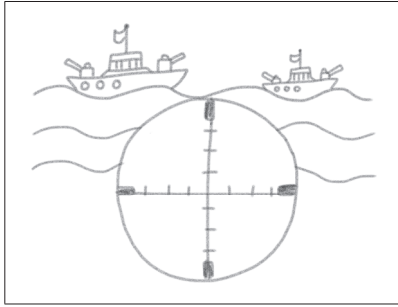
I'm going, bananas. [bye]



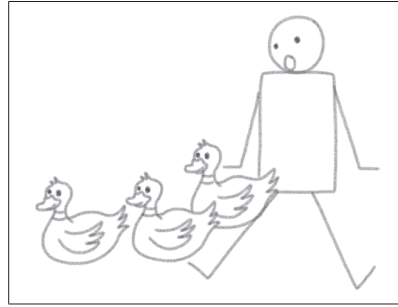
I don't know, London. [girl]



I don't know London. [city]



We are sitting ducks. [target]



We are sitting, ducks.

9. Clause the Santa Claus

OVER TO YOU

- x In a nutshell,
CLAUSE but that **would make** no sense at all!
x a long, windy road to my village.
CLAUSE He **wasn't** argumentative.
CLAUSE which **went down** rather well.
CLAUSE It **must've been** very frightening for Johnny,
CLAUSE I immediately **thought** of you.
x No more for me.
CLAUSE Unless you **ask**,
x In reality,
CLAUSE **Putting** the issues aside,
x Promptly,
CLAUSE **Wasn't** it just?
CLAUSE You **are** welcome.
x At the top of the stairs,
CLAUSE **Sit down**, Pudding!
x However,
x Michael,
CLAUSE which **surprised** me.

STEP IT UP

- (3) When I **was** a child, my family **moved** a lot, but I always **found** them.
(2) **Take** my advice – I'm (I **am**) **not using** it.
(2) If **there is** a wrong way to do something, someone **will do** it.
(1) Don't **mention** it, honestly.
(3) Whether Syd **did** it, or Mel **made** him do it, we **will never know**.
(2) The dog, which **was left** behind the locked gate, **barked** furiously.
(2) Living on Earth **is** expensive, but it **does include** a free trip around the Sun.
(1) Unbelievably, Paula **was described** as a happy-go-lucky girl.
(2) Ted, who **is** only ten years old, **has** the making of a great chef.
(3) She **told** them that I **didn't know** what I **wanted** for Christmas.
(2) Sienna **shouted** that she **had already been** to that theme park.

(3) The author, who **was** late to the book signing event, **couldn't read** the first chapter because he'd (he **had**) **forgotten** his glasses.

(2) I **was raised** as an only child, which really **annoyed** my siblings.

(2) Dad **hit** the brake, which **caused** the car to swerve.

(1) In all honesty, I **haven't met** a nicer couple than Jed and Jo.

(3) I **laughed** because the joke she **had told** us **had** the wrong ending.

(3) If you **tell** Nan, I'll **tell** Grandad, and we'll (we **will**) both **be** in trouble.

(2) When your only tool **is** a hammer, all your problems **look** like nails.

10. Commas separating clauses

OVER TO YOU

1. It was a very long zebra crossing. (B)

2. It was a very long zebra, crossing. (A)

3. Save him not, kill him. (C)

4. Save him, not kill him. (D)

5. I'd like building blocks and a puppy for Zeina (F) (*Zeina might be getting building blocks and a puppy, although it's not entirely clear if she gets both*)

6. I'd like building blocks, and a puppy for Zeina (E) (*Zeina is only getting a puppy; I've asked for building blocks for myself*)

11. Main and 'Sub' Clauses

STEP IT UP

If procrastination was an olympic sport, I'd compete in it later.

When I found out that my toaster wasn't waterproof, I was shocked.

You'll thank me **after** I've done the favour for you.

If every day is a gift, I'd like a receipt for Monday – I want to exchange it for another Friday.

As soon as I try to hug someone cuddly, my face hits the mirror.

If you're not supposed to eat at night, why is there a light bulb in the fridge?

I do unforgettable things **when** I want to improve my memory.

When the past comes knocking, don't answer – it has nothing new to say.

If you run in front of a car, you'll get tired. **If** you run behind the car, you'll get exhausted.

When you're right, no one remembers. **When** you're wrong, no one forgets.

If we have brains to work out problems, why do we use them to create more problems?

Don't look at me **when** I'm trying to concentrate.

If tomatoes are a fruit, is ketchup technically a smoothie?

I stop the microwave one second before the ting **because** I like to feel like a bomb defuser.

When you repeat the same mistakes for so long, you should start calling them traditions.

If you are hotter than me, I am cooler than you.

Chocolate is fruit to me **because** cocoa beans grow on trees.

I like to have a lie in **as long as** I'm allowed to have one.

If a clean desk is the sign of a clear mind, then a clean house is the sign of broken Internet.

When nothing is going right, go left.

Don't stop **when** you're almost there!

If there's the best time to open a gift, it is the present.

When there are footprints on the moon, don't tell me the sky is the limit.

We conveniently forgot to wash Bertie **after** we'd taken him for a walk in a muddy park.

If life is not smiling at you, give it a good tickling.

Emily asked every guest **if** they wanted to sponsor her India expedition.

If you can't convince them, confuse them.

When your children are young, you're a superhero. **When** they're teens, you're a super villain.

After that, your only power is invisibility.

Although teamwork is overrated, it helps to put the blame on someone else.

If time is money, cash machines should be called time machines.

When in doubt, mumble.

BREEZE THROUGH

Having done her history homework, Aisha went running in the park.

Looking through the glass door, I wondered if the house was empty.

Helped by Gran, I grew impressive tomatoes on the windowsill.

Feeling the pressure, the management removed the 'No dogs' sign.

Having heard it was the teacher's birthday, Sian wrote a poem for Mrs Brown.

Feeling uneasy, I decided not to admit that I never played Minecraft.

Encouraged by all, I made the first step into the unknown.

Having run out of paper, I used my t-shirt to carry on making notes.

Not knowing what to do, we called the reception for help.

Given such an opportunity, of course I was going to take it!

Feeling the cold breeze on my face, I pondered if winter was on its way.

Having practised the routes for months, Marcus was ready for his driving test.

13. Commas 'Hugging' a Subordinate Clause

BREEZE THROUGH

In two weeks, if he takes the medicine regularly, he'll be good as new.

Sam and Kay, feeling exhausted from fixing the computer bug, decided to call it a day.

Abi's biggest secret, if we agree that toddlers can keep secrets, was finally out.

Suri's decision, because she believed in kindness over adventure, was that the dog was reunited with its owner.

Tom's revelation, after he's finally let the cat out of the bag, is that he hates furry animals.

It was Rhona and Geeta who, having completed the first aid course, announced their decision to become army medics.

In hindsight, although my friends begged me, I shouldn't have gone to the party.

My devotion for my dog, after I bought a toddler pushchair for him, was completely slated by other people.

Martha, feeling guilty for what she had done, stood up to make an announcement.

No prizes for guessing, though this is quite a clever Sherlock episode, who the killer is.

The school's parent committee, as long as it's in operation in August, is welcome to attend the event.

Miss Jones' holiday, while we appreciate your concerns, has already been accepted.

Elizabeth, while still grieving her father's death, was crowned the new monarch.

14. Relative Clauses and Puppies

STEP IT UP

- ✓ People who walk in circles are wondering what they've forgotten.
- ✗ The bus stop, that we just passed, is always very busy.
(correct: *The bus stop that we just passed is always very busy.*)
- ✗ The recipe whom we hadn't tried before is easy to follow.
(correct: *The recipe, which we haven't tried before, is easy to follow.*)
- ✓ Ali, who scored four goals, is the new captain of the team.
- ✓ The jokes that I dislike the most start with 'Knock, knock...'
- ✗ Mr Blake, which is our neighbour, is a keen gardener.
(correct: *Mr Blake, who is our neighbour, is a keen gardener.*)
- ✗ We left Biscuit, that was asleep in his cage, with Mrs Shelley.
(correct: *We left Biscuit, who was asleep in his cage, with Mrs Shelley.*)
- ✗ Children, who don't stop smiling, will be let into the tent first.
(correct: *Children who don't stop smiling will be let into the tent first.*)
- ✓ The fruit, which we got from Ella, made the cake sweet and rich.
- ✓ Cold-blooded animals that have scaly skin are called reptiles.
- ✓ The painting that I forgot to mention in my essay is by Monet.
- ✗ The answer, that was actually incorrect, earned the team a point.
(correct: *The answer, which was actually incorrect, earned the team a point.*)

TAKE A BOW

Not all customers are shocked. Only the ones who find out I'm a bad electrician.

- ✓ Customers who find out I'm a bad electrician are shocked.

I have many books. The one I'm interested in is about anti-gravity.

- ✓ The book that is about anti-gravity is impossible to put down.

Adam did only one prank and the prank involved swapping tickets.

- ✓ Adam's prank, which involved swapping tickets, can't be undone.

Although I have many dogs, only my German shepherd guards me at night.

- ✓ The dog that guards me at night is my German shepherd.

Only one diagnosis was made. It came out of the blue.

- ✓ The diagnosis, which came out of the blue, was colour blindness.

15. Two or More Main Clauses

OVER TO YOU

Don't ask me anything, and I won't tell you any lies.

Money doesn't grow on trees, yet banks have branches.

Dad and I laugh about how competitive we are, but I laugh more.

I may not have lost all my marbles yet, but there is a small hole in the bag somewhere.

I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.

My pencil supposedly belonged to Shakespeare, but I can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B.

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

We can watch 'Batman', or we can watch 'Batman Returns'.

I used to think that I was indecisive, but now I'm not too sure.

Never let a fool kiss you, or a kiss fool you.

Cats spend two thirds of their lives sleeping, and the other third making viral videos.

A garage sale is actually a garbage sale, but the 'b' is silent.
 Andy's resolution was to read more, so he put the subtitles on Tv.
 Grandad says he always wanted to be somebody, but he now realised he should have been more specific.
 We like birthdays, yet we forget that too many will kill us.
 I'd tell you a chemistry joke, but I know I wouldn't get a reaction.
 The puzzle said 3–5 years, yet I finished it in 18 months.
 You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.
 I wouldn't normally press F5, but it's so refreshing.
 The early bird catches the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
 It may look like I'm doing nothing, yet in my head I'm very busy.
 I'm not saying I'm a superhero, but have you seen me and Batman together in the same place at the same time?
 My opinions may have changed, but not the fact that I am right.
 Change is inevitable, but not from a vending machine.

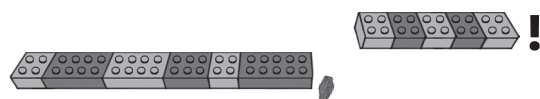
16. Commas – Putting It All Together

TAKE A BOW

The maths test, which is actually tomorrow, is too easy to revise for.



After my teacher called me average, I told him it was mean!



People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day.



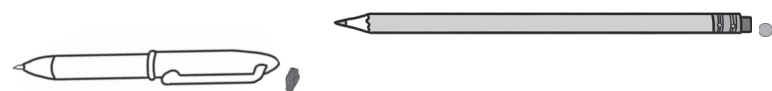
Lisa, has your missing cat been found yet?



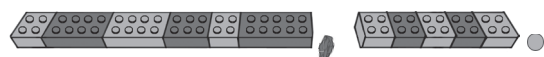
None of my books, which are all arranged alphabetically by the author, is by Dom Harris.



Having burned 3,000 calories, I vowed to never leave cake in the oven while napping.



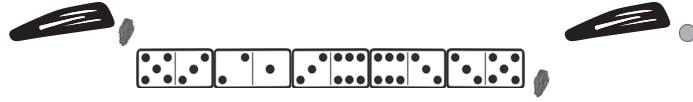
My opinions may have changed, but not the fact that I'm right.



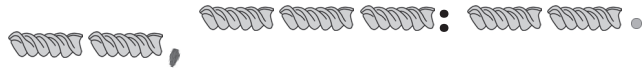
Rightfully, the man who invented the windowsill is a ledge.



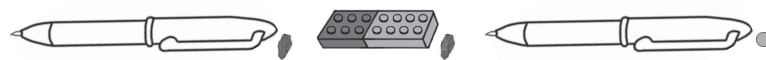
Without ME, even if everyone else was at the party, it was just AWESo.



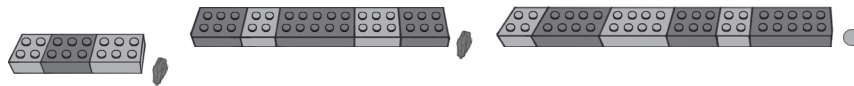
When Dad was a child, family dinners came with two options: take it or leave it.



Run as fast as you can, Loki, and tell everyone Grandad is here.



To be honest, I wanted a fridge magnet, not six new fridges!



Marley sat at the front, so I sat next to him, but Al pretended not to see us.



ollie opened the door, cautiously looked inside, took his shoes off and tiptoed upstairs.



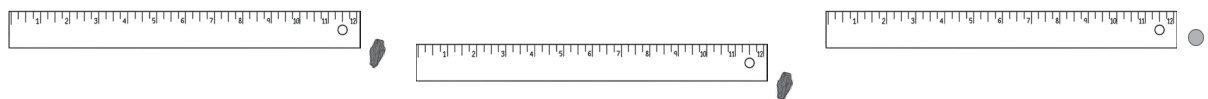
If you get a letter full of rice, it's from Uncle Ben.



The dog chased the cyclist, making weird noises. (The dog, not the cyclist, was making weird noises.)



The postman, who lives next door, knows our dog really well.



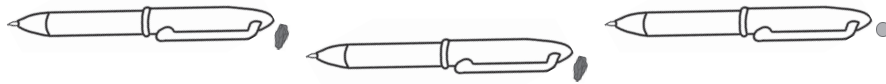
I decided to have Moses, Leah, Seth, Noah, Harry and Aria on my team.



Before long, the secret art project was completed, but Miss Chen had another surprise for us.



I wouldn't say I'm good at athletics, having come last in my class, but I enjoy taking part.



I'd like some Banoffee pie, and ice cream for Freya. (I'd like some Banoffee pie for me, and ice cream for Freya.)



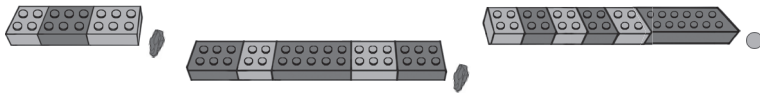
That would never happen, would it?



You ask my opinion, yet you're upset when I give it to you.



Greta Thunberg, whom we never met in person, inspired us the most.



Because the wind is very strong, we're wearing extra layers and raincoats.



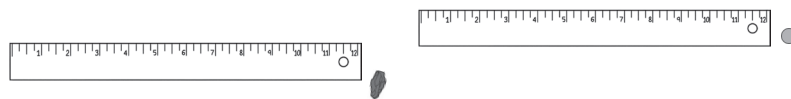
After meeting Jaxon, Sian realised what was missing in her life, so she set up a new charity.



Did the shop have carrots, onions, leeks or parsnips?



Because they're always up to something, staircases should never be trusted.



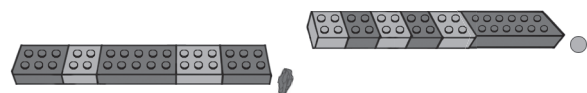
Evening news, although starting with 'Good evening', always leaves people with a worse evening than before they sat down to watch it.



That was my final answer, but the teacher kept asking me more questions.



Listening to a song about a tortilla, Mo knew it was a rap.



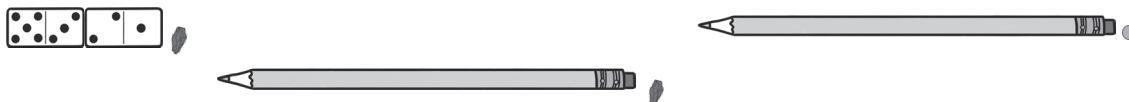
Elsie, did you remember to get flour, eggs and milk on the way from school?

 ?

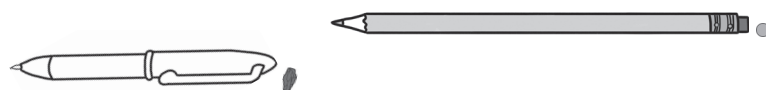
If I promise to miss you, will you go now?



The graffiti student, whose name cannot be revealed, called himself the Young Banksy of Merseyside.



Driving too fast, Dad struggled to find the way out.



Shall I do it now, wait until tomorrow, or don't do it at all?



17. Colon

STOP AND THINK

Emoticons' meanings are happy, sad, laughing, cheeky, crying, kiss and unsure.

OVER TO YOU

Secret: something that is told to one person at a time.

Mum's announcement today: 'Happy 10-week anniversary to the 28 browser tabs I have open.'

Anger: the feeling that makes your mouth work faster than your mind.

I was picked for my motivational skills: everyone always says they have to work twice as hard when I'm around.

My teenagers are optimists: every glass they leave around the house is at least half full.

Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting different results.

Be a pineapple: stand tall, wear a crown and be sweet on the inside.

To the guy who invented the zero: thanks for nothing!

Determination: taking a lot of steps to avoid lifts.

Some people are like Slinkies: they don't do much all day, but you can't help smiling when you see one tumble down the stairs.

The shinbone: a device for finding furniture in a dark room.

Keep the dream alive: hit the snooze button.

To people who write 'u' instead of 'you': what do you do with all the time you save?

Dad's life complaint: laugh and the world laughs with you, but snore and you sleep alone.

18. Semicolon

STEP IT UP

1. Have a hamster if you can't have a cat. (B)
2. Have a hamster; if you can't, have a cat. (A)

LEMON SQUEEZY

Please buy a suitcase, Levi jacket, vase and a bus ticket. (*commas are used to separate less wordy items in shorter lists*)

Please buy a suitcase big enough to pack all your belongings; a Levi jacket to replace the one you have helped yourself to in my wardrobe; a vase that looks exactly like the one you broke yesterday; and a bus ticket that will take you back to Aunt Jo. (*semicolons are used to separate more wordy items in longer lists*)

BREEZE THROUGH

I explained the word 'many' to my sister; it means a lot to her.

Some people feel the rain; others just get wet.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

I hate insect puns; they really bug me.

Intelligence is like underwear; you need it, but you don't have to show it off.

or: Intelligence is like underwear: you need it, but you don't have to show it off.

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.

Entries are wide; exits are narrow.

our PE teacher has a ticket to the match; he hasn't missed a single game for ten years.

Sometimes I tuck my knees into my chest and lean forward; that's just how I roll.

When I was young, there were only 25 letters in the alphabet; nobody knew why.

I hated my job as an origami teacher; there was too much paperwork.

or: I hated my job as an origami teacher: there was too much paperwork.

I'm working on a device that will read minds; I'd love to hear your thoughts.

I have two hemispheres: in the left one, there's nothing right; in the right one, there's nothing left.

There are three kinds of people: the ones who learn by reading; the ones who learn by observation; and the rest of them who have to touch the fire to learn it's hot.

19. Dash

BREEZE THROUGH

Not everyone likes maths – no point arguing about that! (*dash*)

It was a short-lived hope. (*hyphen*)

I've found the tickets – it was the best day ever! (*dash*)

The place wasn't just good – it was perfect. (*dash*)

She's such a happy-go-lucky girl. (*hyphens*)

Mum works part-time. (*hyphen*)

What happened was incredible – or so we thought. (*dash*)

At a close-up, it wasn't as scary as we thought it was. (*hyphen*)

I'm just trying to be open-minded about the new bistro. (*hyphen*)

I think – actually, I believe – we should stand up to him. (*dashes*)

LEMON SQUEEZY

I can always tell when my brother is lying – his lips move.

My cousin has just found out I swapped his bed for a trampoline – he hit the roof!

My mother has terrible memory – she never forgets anything!

I decided to take up jogging – especially as it's Lola's favourite sport.

I prefer chocolate to fruity desserts – you can't go wrong with brownies.

All students did well in the rehearsal – the teachers were very excited.

Keep smiling – it makes people wonder what you have been up to!

I heard a voice inside me say, 'Smile! Things could be worse...' so I smiled – and they did get worse.

This is the best rollercoaster you'll ever sit in – hands down.

Everyone everywhere is within walking distance – it only depends on how much time you have.

War doesn't tell us who is right – only who is left.

Grandad said he had never grown up – he had only learned how to act in public.

20. Brackets

OVER TO YOU

The best way to destroy an enemy (apart from a battlefield one) is to make them a friend.

Dad cooked lasagne (my favourite dinner) with four pasta layers.

It's fine if you disagree with me (I can't force you to be right!)

I thought you'd be interested to know (forgive me if you're not) that Aidan has a new girlfriend.

Nobody came to Emma's party, which (you've guessed it) started even earlier than the previous one.

Intelligent people are full of doubt (I think).

If I agreed with you (hypothetically), we'd both be wrong.

Joseph (the boy who has a crush on me) delivers newspapers to our house!

I stood up and hiccupped (that's not weird, is it?)

My French teacher (the one with a motor in her mouth) confused me like I've never been confused before.

Jo's pasta bake (what I prefer to call 'mystery food') went down like a lead balloon.

Reading all sorts of books (apart from Facebook) gives you wisdom in later life.

I loved every moment (and I'm not easily entertained!)

STEP IT UP

Don't just walk in and take my time (unless there's chocolate in your bag).

or: Don't just walk in and take my time unless there's chocolate in your bag. (*no comma when the main clause is at the front of the sentence*)

The cleverest of all (in my teacher's opinion) is the student who calls themselves a fool at least once a month.

or: The cleverest of all, in my teacher's opinion, is the student who calls themselves a fool at least once a month.

You are pretty close to perfect (when you're standing next to me).

or: You are pretty close to perfect when you're standing next to me. (*no comma when the main clause is at the front of the sentence*)

Sometimes the cleverest thing (and you'll know this from experience) is to say nothing at all.
or: Sometimes the cleverest thing, and you'll know this from experience, is to say nothing at all.

Do you remember John, my sister's boyfriend?

or: Do you remember John (my sister's boyfriend)?

Myles came to the party. (Do you remember him from school?) He was the real life and soul of the party!

I took a calculated risk (though I'm bad at maths) and it backfired spectacularly.

or: I took a calculated risk, though I'm bad at maths, and it backfired spectacularly.

I wore my army surplus jacket. (My date thought I looked tidy!)

In moments like this one (when the whole flock is out of order), the farmer sends a distress message to his sheepdog.

or: In moments like this one, when the whole flock is out of order, the farmer sends a distress message to his sheepdog.

I'll definitely help you with the essay, even though there's no moral ground for it.

or: I'll definitely help you with the essay (even though there's no moral ground for it).

Barack obama (the former US president) will be visiting the museum in May.

or: Barack obama, the former US president, will be visiting the museum in May.

I've adopted three stick insects. (My brother doesn't know yet!)

My family misbehaved at the party (as always)!

or: My family misbehaved at the party, as always!

21. Parenthesis

STEP IT UP

After I drank the water, making an awkward gurgling noise, I put the glass down forcefully.

or: After I drank the water (making an awkward gurgling noise), I put the glass down forcefully.

or: After I drank the water – making an awkward gurgling noise – I put the glass down forcefully. (*informal*)

Mrs Shirley, who never cooked in her life, was made the Head of Food Tech.

or: Mrs Shirley (who never cooked in her life) was made the Head of Food Tech.

Zeenat finally turned around (after looking away for two minutes) and explained why the keys had disappeared.

or: Zeenat finally turned around, after looking away for two minutes, and explained why the keys had disappeared.

I'll do this, though I'm not promising, if I get more free time.

or: I'll do this (though I'm not promising) if I get more free time.

or: I'll do this – though I'm not promising – if I get more free time. (*informal*)

I checked the clock (the one on the city hall) before getting on the bus.

or: I checked the clock – the one on the city hall – before getting on the bus. (*informal*)

Jason (my only Instagram follower) wouldn't do this to me!

or: Jason – my only Instagram follower – wouldn't do this to me! (*informal*)

or: Jason, my only Instagram follower, wouldn't do this to me!

I'll get back to you, I hope, tomorrow afternoon.

or: I'll get back to you – I hope – tomorrow afternoon. (*informal*)

or: I'll get back to you (I hope) tomorrow afternoon.

We are definitely coming in the summer (more details soon), so we get to meet Sophia in person.

or: We are definitely coming in the summer – more details soon – so we get to meet Sophia in person. (*informal*)

Miss Rutherford paused (at which point I shut my eyes) before confirming I wasn't allowed to re-sit the test.

or: Miss Rutherford paused, at which point I shut my eyes, before confirming I wasn't allowed to re-sit the test.

or: Miss Rutherford paused – at which point I shut my eyes – before confirming I wasn't allowed to re-sit the test. (*informal*)

I looked in the suggested direction (to the right of the post office) but didn't see anything unusual.

or: I looked in the suggested direction – to the right of the post office – but didn't see anything unusual. (*informal*)

If you have to comment (we know you find it hard not to), at least be fair.

or: If you have to comment, and we know you find it hard not to, at least be fair.

or: If you have to comment – we know you find it hard not to – at least be fair. (*informal*)

Play is the most natural activity, right after physiological functions, and should be promoted by teachers and parents.

or: Play is the most natural activity (right after physiological functions) and should be promoted by teachers and parents.

He didn't run so fast to win the race (perish the thought), though he can be competitive.

or: He didn't run so fast to win the race, perish the thought, though he can be competitive.

or: He didn't run so fast to win the race – perish the thought – though he can be competitive. (*informal*)

Being a young child is (without any doubt whatsoever) being a smaller human than an adult.

or: Being a young child is, without any doubt whatsoever, being a smaller human than an adult.

She was (rather unfortunately) the only candidate we had.

or: She was, rather unfortunately, the only candidate we had.

or: She was – rather unfortunately – the only candidate we had. (*informal*)

My dog's counting skills, and I'm being absolutely honest here, are superior to those of my cat. or: My dog's counting skills (and I'm being absolutely honest here) are superior to those of my cat.

or: My dog's counting skills – and I'm being absolutely honest here – are superior to those of my cat. (*informal*)

The family holiday was, all things considered, a resounding success.

or: The family holiday was (all things considered) a resounding success.

or: The family holiday was – all things considered – a resounding success. (*informal*)

22. Ellipsis

OVER TO YOU

I like to hold hands at the movies... but it always seems to startle strangers.

I'm just going to flip this omelette... okay, we're having scrambled eggs.

Your secrets are safe with me... I wasn't even listening.

My friends and I played hide and seek. It went on for hours... Well, good friends are hard to find.

My superpower is making people laugh, which should be great... if I were trying to be funny.

I love my life... but it just wants to be friends.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. on my desk, I have a work station...

23. Hyphen

OVER TO YOU

1. I did twenty four-hour shifts. (C)
2. I did twenty-four hour shifts. (B)
3. I did twenty-four-hour shifts. (A)

STEP IT UP

He is 22 years old and sells old furniture.

He is an old-furniture salesman.

(Aged 22 years old, he is not an old salesman.)

He is not very tall at all, and his job involves writing stories.

He is a short story writer.

(We are not told he only writes short stories.)

She is a holiday rep who works from countries other than UK.

She is an overseas holiday rep.

(We are not told her job is limited to overseas holidays only.)

In his 60s, he is an experienced cheese specialist.

He is a mature cheese expert.

(We are not told his expertise is limited to mature cheese only.)

LEMON SQUEEZY

1. It was a cross section of people. (B)
2. It was a cross-section of people. (A)
3. It was a man hunting beast. (C)
4. It was a man-hunting beast. (D)

STEP IT UP

Dad kissed his little girl good night.

Dad gave his little girl **a good-night kiss.**

This grocery voucher is worth forty pounds.

This is a **forty-pound grocery voucher.**

We never miss the parties at the end of term.

We never miss **end-of-term parties**.

This assignment is well thought out.

This is a **well-thought-out assignment**.

My brother is nine years old.

I have a **nine-year-old brother**.

These clothes are made in a factory.

These are **factory-made clothes**.

Airplanes that fly low create noise pollution.

Low-flying airplanes create noise pollution.

The pattern on his top is eye catching.

His top has an **eye-catching pattern**.

BRING IT ON

These people are **law-abiding citizens**.

These people are law abiding.

I wish she weren't such **a quick-tempered girl**.

I wish she weren't so quick tempered.

What do you do when you meet **a well-known person**?

What do you do when you meet a person who is well known?

Many countries have **a 35-hour working week**.

People work 35 hours per week in many countries.

I'm pleased to reveal **an up-to-date schedule**.

I'm pleased to reveal a schedule that is up to date.

This is a **long-term solution**.

This solution should work in the long term.

Unfortunately, he was described as **a short-fused politician**.

Unfortunately, the politician was described as having a short fuse.

TAKE A BOW

A best friend is like a four-leaf clover: hard to find and lucky to have.

Was the teacher cross-eyed, or she simply couldn't control her pupils?

Waking up this morning was an eye-opening experience.

Teachers who take class register are absent-minded.

Whiteboards are quite re-markable.

Autocorrect should have been named more precisely as autoassume.

A keychain is a device that enables you to lose all keys at once.

The worst things about parallel parking are the eyewitnesses.

If you spent your day in a well, can you say your day was well spent?

I was hoping to steal some leftovers from the party, but I guess my plans were foiled.

Two Wi-Fi antennas got married last Saturday. The reception was fantastic.

I've just been on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday. I'll tell you what, never again!

I thought my neighbours were lovely people. Then they went and put a password on their Wi-Fi.

What does a spy do in the rain? He goes undercover.

The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

OVER TO YOU

recreate = give new life or freshness to someone or something (*recreate by regular jogging*)

re-create = form again in the imagination (*re-create the scene in the mind*)

reform = amend or improve something (*reform the educational system*)

re-form = form again (*re-form the blue tack ball*)

24. Inverted commas

OVER TO YOU

1. The policeman said, "The robber was too quick." (B)
2. "The policeman," said the robber, "was too quick." (A)

LEMON SQUEEZY

In all examples below, use of either single or double inverted commas is correct as long as they are used consistently within the same sentence or passage.

My neighbour used to say, "As one door closes, another opens."

Such a lovely man, but a terrible cabinet maker.

"Dogs are easily amused", thought Sam while watching her dog chase his tail. She then realised that she was watching her dog chase his tail.

I put the 'pro' in procrastinate.

Don't spell 'part' backwards – it's a trap!

Whoever invented 'Knock knock' jokes should get a 'No bell' prize.

When you just slipped and fell, simply say, "Yep, gravity still works!"

I'm all for irony, but the phrase 'Good morning' is proving a bit too far.

Pool rule: you're not allowed to do anything that begins with the words: "Hey everyone, watch this!"

Does anyone actually know what the 'I'm feeling lucky' button on Google page means?

Most of the year: "I want this, I want that!" Near my birthday: "I can't think of a single thing I want."

Teachers use words, such as 'creative' and 'strong-willed' to describe Esme. We simply think she is stubborn.

If you send a text message saying, 'I heard what you said about me', you could find out rather a lot about what the person thinks about you.

Did you know that if you hold your ear up to a stranger's knee, you can actually hear them say, "What do you think you are doing?"

Sometimes, when I am matching socks, I'm horrified to think, 'What if these two socks don't even like each other?'

I saw a doctor about my hearing problem. He asked, "Can you describe the symptoms?" I said, "Homer is fat, Marge has blue hair, Maggie has the brains and Bart is a real nightmare."

I like to give people blank 'Thank you' cards for their birthdays. When they ask me what they're for, I say, "You'll thank me later!"

Doctor: "Sir, I'm afraid your DNA is backwards." Me: "And?"

People used to laugh at me when I would announce, 'I want to be a comedian!' Well, nobody's laughing now.

I got my sister a 'Get better soon' card. She's not sick – I just think she could get better.

Maggie pleaded, "Please eat the broken biscuits first because I feel so bad for them."

Dads everywhere: 'Don't worry, kids. Mum just turned the car radio down, so we shouldn't be lost much longer.'

'What's an essay conclusion, Jamie?'

'That part where you're tired of thinking.'

Text to Mum: "I'll be there in 5 minutes. If not, read this message again."

I was complimented on my fine driving. Someone left a 'Parking Fine' note.

A man went to the doctor's and said, "I've hurt my arm in several places." The doctor said, "Well, don't go there any more."

Teacher: 'You missed school yesterday.'

Joe: 'To tell you the truth, I didn't really miss it.'

I read recipes the same way I read sci-fi stories: I get to the end and think, "Well, that's not going to happen!"

25. Possessive Apostrophe

BREEZE THROUGH

Mum's stories are very funny, but not when she jokes about Pebbles' first encounter with the vet.

Windows are really TVs for cats.

If you step on someone's foot, they open their mouth like a bin.

From the chairs' viewpoint, humans are mainly bums.

Which country's capital is the fastest growing? Ireland's. Every year it's Dublin.

These are children's books; dictionaries are over there.

Molly's dream was to never have spinach flan ever again.

I have two baby sisters and the babies' cots are right next to my bed.

Men's coats are to your left, and women's shoes are on the first floor.

Mr Spark was asked to park in the visitors' car park.

Dad's boss's pen was in his pocket.

We could ask Adam's brother to babysit for us.

If you want to stop an astronaut's baby from crying, you rocket.

A vampire's favourite fruit is obviously a blood orange.

Mr Norman's message on the school's website: 'To the student who stole my glasses. I will find you. I have contacts.'

How many musicians does it take to screw in a lightbulb? And a one, and a two, and a three...

You can tell an ant's gender by putting it in water: sinks – girl ant, floats – buoyant.

BRING IT ON

THoMPSoN'S BAKERY

No barbeques allowed on the field

No TAXIS. RESIDENTS' CARS oNLY.

Hot drinks served here

NoTICE Toilets to the right

CARS PARKED AT oWNERS' RISK

St Mary's Children's Hospital

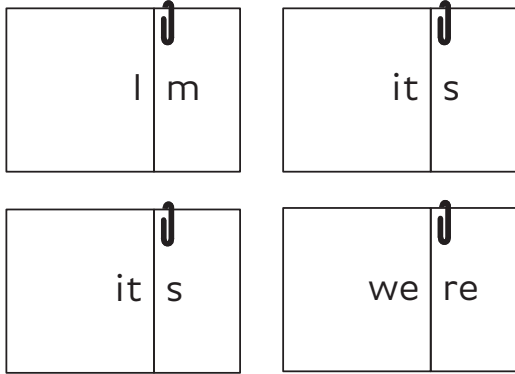
26. Contracting Apostrophe

OVER TO YOU

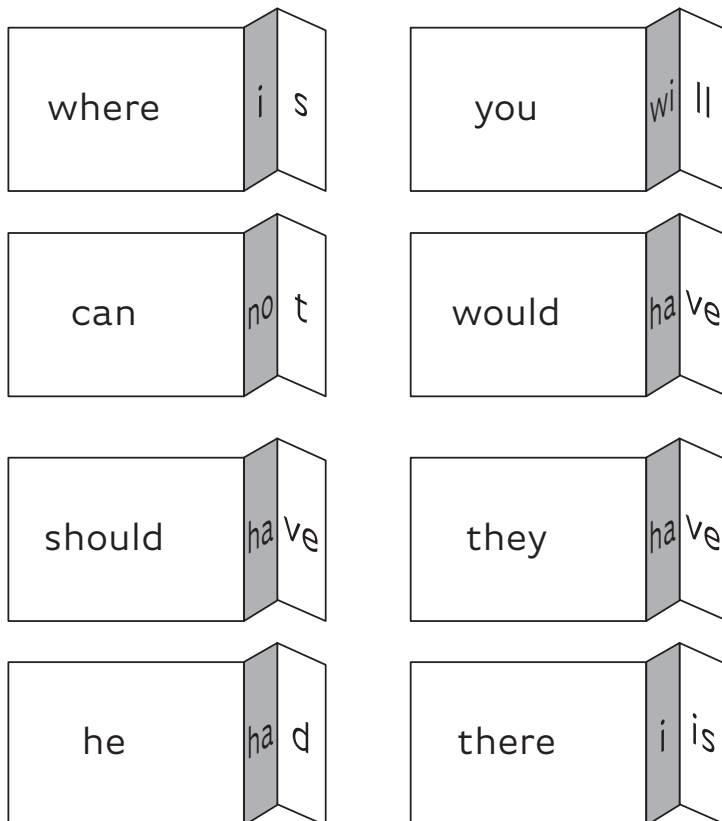
who's is short for **who is** or **who has**

whose is asking '**Who does this belong to?**'

BREEZE THROUGH



LEMON SQUEEZY



BREEZE THROUGH

it's = it is, or it has

I'm = I am

you'll = you will

wasn't = was not

could've = could have

we're = we are

they've = they have

can't = cannot

mustn't = must not

he'd = he would, or he had

aren't = are not

hadn't = had not

wouldn't = would not

should've = should have

won't = will not

might've = might have

shan't = shall not

they're = they are

who's = who is, or who has

hasn't = has not

there's = there is

couldn't = could not

weren't = were not

didn't = did not

STEP IT UP

She'll sell a shell by the seashore.

The shell she'll sell will be very well wrapped.

We're aware that you were away.

Were we not aware you're away, we wouldn't worry we're on our own.

The shed she'd bought needed some shade.

She'd better get the shed that she'd planned to buy.

We'll write to you about the well well in time.

Don't change the price, or we'll change our mind about the well.

TAKE A BOW

It's (It is) a 30-minute walk from my house to the school, but a 10-minute walk back home.

I'd (I would) say **it's (it is)** a mystery!

I've (I have) had a row with my boss at lunchtime – one of the perks of working near a boating lake.

It's (It is) so annoying when people get their sayings wrong. After all, **it's (it is)** not rocket salad!

No matter how enraged Germaine Greer gets, **she'll (she will)** never be as furious as her sister, Anne.

Finding my lost luggage at the airport is a nightmare. You might think **it'd (it would)** be easy, but **that's (that is)** not the case.

My boyfriend found a pile of letters **I'd (I had)** hidden and accused me of cheating. He said **he'd (he would)** never play scrabble with me again.

I've (I have) done my first ever book signing. **I'm (I am)** now banned from the library.

I **don't (do not)** see the point of a pocket calculator. Who **doesn't (does not)** know how many pockets they have?

Who's (Who is) in charge of the hankies? The handkerchief.

I'd (I had) bought rocket salad, but **it's (it has)** gone off before I could eat it.

To be Frank, **I'd (I would)** have to change my name.

He's (He has) quit his job at the helium factory today. **He's (He is)** not being spoken to in that tone of voice!

27. How to Solve a Problem like Zed?

OVER TO YOU

Correct answers:

1. When I close my eyes, I can't see.
 2. I could've done it if I'd tried harder.
 3. ollie's brothers' choice was to sell their shares in the company.
 4. It's not true all of our teachers' worries are students' grades.
 5. Tolkien famously said, "Not all those who wander are lost."
 6. Having played in Manchester, the band is coming to our city.
 7. The team struggled to communicate; we lost the game.
 8. I'm off, Lily. Please feed Scratch, Clawsby, Catzilla and Pud.
 9. Just as I finished, it started raining, which ruined my project.
 10. Children's parties are welcome here.
 11. The full amount, first requested in June, is yet to be paid.
 12. With the exception of one hiccup, the lesson went rather well.
 13. The new teacher, who looks like Doctor Who, is our form tutor.
 14. According to Mr Frost, the students worked 'exceptionally hard'.
 15. Who's left their jacket behind?
 16. Jo's second-hand car theft account seemed a far-fetched story.
- Completed activation key: WINNINGHANDSDoWN (winning hands down).

BRING IT ON

Why We Need Punctuation

Thanks for helping, Billy. Get out of the house!

You can't read punctuation marks.

Capital Letter

I have a proper name.

I say, 'Be somebody nobody thought you could be.'

I know a human as mad as a March hare!

Thirty days has September. All the rest I can't remember...

I was made in China, so a part of me is Chinese.

or 'How to Build a Robot' by Cy Borg.
Haven't you read the book by Peter Brown?
Dogs with wet noses hurt more than bad landing.
They interfere with my electric circuits.
Is 'Star Wars' a title or a brand name? Asking for R2-D2...

Full Stop

'Cross' and 'disappointed' are negative emotions.
I will (full) stop at nothing.

Question Mark

Why only questions?
No question marks in my programming language.
I don't like homework with question marks.
Good on Dad!

Listing Comma

She is a monster!
I can't see any commas in the pot.

Serial (Oxford) Comma

Nobody told me Lady Gaga and Ed Sheeran had a child.
My name is Zed, not Alexa.

Name-Separating Comma

Because I'm funny?
Humans say one thing and mean a trouble.
I know trouble when I hear one.
The wolf has shrunk the children!

Clause the Santa Claus

Claws-is?
Robots are good heads; they solve problems faster.
The doing word.
Clause sounds like Santa Claus.
The comma helps to avoid conclusion.

Main and 'Sub' Clauses

After the teacher said it was a piece of cake...
Timmy ate his homework.
What joke?
Makes no sense.
Dogs eat homework.
'Subordinate' is a long word.
Unless you want your writing to sink to the bottom of the sea.

Comma after Fronted Adverbials

Fronted mousers are lazy, so they have no doing words.
I knew Santa wouldn't have anything to do with mousers.
Robots will time travel before humans.

Commas 'Hugging' a Subordinate Clause

Hugging is overrated. You can get an electric shock.

Relative Clauses and Puppies

The human who broke the robot kept pushing all the buttons.

Two out of three humans in every electronics shop.

Two or More Main Clauses

I can see ships, but not a single submarine.

Commas – Putting It All Together

Plain English, please!

Approaching System overload Error!

Colon

If you know what :/ mean.

You said they were emoticons.

Semicolon

'Consecutive' means one after another.

Why look at me?

Dash

If I had a stomach, it would be turning right now.

All clear. Gotta dash now! (*informal*)

Brackets

He is an important person.

But he is closest to the rain clouds.

So I read the extra words for nothing?

And ask for a weather forecast for next week.

This does not apply if your punctuation software update is delayed.

Give a robot the right software, and it will give one hundred per cent.

Parenthesis

All you need is love.

'Looking dapper' is in brackets.

Ellipsis

or trying to send unfinished SoS messages.

Hyphen

Why not 'hy-phenated'?

Smarty-pants students alert!

So why bother with hyphens?

Inverted Commas

Finally, a ghost story!

Possessive Apostrophe

A friendly reminder: I have no thumbs.

Contracting Apostrophe

Alert in my data analysis: the folding device doesn't work for all contractions!

No Wi-Fi.

Challenge accepted.

How to Solve a Problem like Zed?

Got what?

I'd rather have a zillion system bugs than sound like Alexa.

Threat detected. Evacuate! Evacuate! Evacuate!

28. Zed Has the Last Word

OVER TO YOU

The dog chased a man on a bicycle.

Who was on the bicycle: the dog or the man?

I saw her duck.

Did she show you her domesticated water bird, or did you see her lower her head or body forward to avoid getting hit by something?

Free whales!

Are the whales free to go to a good home? Or are we campaigning to release them from captivity?

Look at the cat with one eye.

Are you asking me to close one eye when looking at the cat, or does the cat have only one eye?

I saw the man with the telescope.

Did you use the telescope to look at the man, or did you see him carry or look through the telescope?

The vicar married my niece.

Was the vicar the official who married the couple, or was he the groom?

They fed her rat poison.

Did they poison her, or did they use the poison that belonged to her?

visiting relatives can be boring.

Are relatives who come for visits boring, or is visiting the relatives a boring activity?

He loves the hamster more than his wife.

Who loves the hamster more: he or his wife? Or does his love for his wife come second after that for the hamster?

The puppy sat by the girl with the pleased look.

Who had the pleased look: the puppy or the girl?

Call me a taxi.

Okay, you're a taxi. Or shall I get you a taxi to take you to your destination?

Giant waves down Queen Mary's funnels.

Does this newspaper title refer to a major disturbance on the surface of the sea that affected the ship's funnels? Or was there a massive superhuman-looking creature waving down the ship's funnels?