

## MENTAL ENLIGHTENMENT SCIENTIFIC – METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL



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<http://mentaljournal-jspu.uz/index.php/mesmj/index>



## USING PUNCTUATION MARKS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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### ABOUT ARTICLE

**Key words:** punctuation marks, commas, apostrophe, singular, equivalent, predicate, subject, atypical speech, subjunctive mood, interrogative, exclamatory.

**Received:** 06.03.23

**Accepted:** 08.03.23

**Published:** 10.03.23

**Abstract:** In this article, the author made an attempt to reveal the semantic foundations of English punctuation. The purpose of this article is to try to reveal the semantic foundations of English punctuation within the speech complex. The relevance of the topic is determined by the ever-increasing interest in the issue of punctuation, which often turns out to be controversial. Along with the presence of a large number of teaching aids on punctuation and spelling rules, indicating the serious importance of this section of grammar, modern linguistics, according to many linguists, unfortunately still does not have comprehensive theoretical studies that reveal the fundamental points related to semantic the basics of punctuation.

### INTRODUCTION

Punctuation (from the Latin punctum - point) means a system of punctuation marks in the writing of a language that serves to indicate the rhythm and melody of a phrase, as well as the rules for their staging in written speech.

Punctuation as a system has evolved over more than one century. The history of the development and formation of the punctuation system indicates that the principles of punctuation and, as a result, the rules and norms of the punctuation design of the text have changed many times, and the functions of punctuation marks have also changed.

Special attention of scientists is attracted by the sign as a unit of communication that affects the understanding and interpretation of the text. There is no doubt that punctuation marks are an important

text-forming tool. Punctuation marks are of great importance to the recipient because they have a powerful interpretative potential.

Many scientists emphasize the importance and significance of punctuation in the act of communication between the author and the reader.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

So, according to G. Carey, too few punctuation marks (which is now fashionable) imposes on the reader most of the burden of interpretation, and sometimes leaves a lot of ambiguities and inaccuracies. He compares punctuation marks with road signs that make driving safe and maximum effective [1. p. 83].

At the beginning of the article, let's start with punctuation marks, many of the rules for setting a comma are radically different from those that can be found in Uzbek spelling. It is worth remembering the main thing that punctuation rules in English are much softer than in Uzbek. So, if in Uzbek a comma, according to the rules, can stand in one place, it is not allowed to rearrange it to another. In English, the comma can vary. It depends on the style in which the text or sentence is presented.

According to G. Granik, "punctuation marks make it possible to say much more in writing than can be written in letters. Signs, like words, speak, and we read them along with the words. And sometimes ... even instead of words" [2. C. 7].

Both Russian and foreign philologists have dealt with questions of English punctuation at different times. Despite the fact that the appearance of punctuation dates back to ancient times (it has become an integral part of written speech), English scholars still disagree about the use of punctuation marks such as dashes, semicolons, colons. And even such a common sign as a comma still causes numerous disputes among linguists.

In English, almost the same punctuation marks are used as in Uzbek: dot, comma, semicolon, dash, apostrophe, brackets, ellipsis, question and exclamation marks, hyphen. In both languages, the placement of punctuation marks in the text is regulated by certain rules, but it should be remembered that often the rules allow the use of different punctuation marks in the same situation. In other words, good punctuation is the ability to make the right choice in the right place so that the reader can best understand the intentions of the author of the text [3. p. 94].

The main cases of using punctuation marks in English include:

(1). Sentences expressing a request usually end with a period, even if they are in question form:  
Will you send me your latest article. May I take it.

(2). The indirect question ends with a period, not a question mark: Do you mind if I come a little later.

(3). A comma separates:

1) adverbial clauses, if they are at the beginning of the sentence before the main one. If the subordinate clause follows the main clause, then it is not separated by a comma. When it was convenient for him, he went to the office;

2) participial and absolute turns at the beginning of the sentence. The rain having stopped, we went for a walk. A doctor, called to the scene, examined the injured man;

In order to better understand the rules about when to use a comma, you need to know that sentences can be of two types. Namely dependent and independent.

A dependent is a sentence that must contain a subject and a predicate. But at the same time, it is considered an incomplete sentence, since it cannot exist separately on its own. In that case, it would make no sense. [10]

An independent sentence is one in which there is either one predicate or one subject. But in turn, it is a complete sentence, which is quite the place to be on its own.

Now consider the rules for when to put a comma.

1. A comma is used in English grammar to combine two sentences that are independent, as well as in the management of some unions.

2. A comma must be placed after the dependent sentence, as well as at the end of the introductory and prepositional parts.

3. A comma in English can be used when it is necessary to separate elements that are equivalent and consistent. This happens even regardless of the fact that in the grammatical features of a given language there is no clear single rule that is aimed at isolating the extreme elements in the series. Still, most often it is separated by a comma.

4. If there are minor problems in the sentence and they need to be separated from each other, in this case a comma is used. The main thing is that they are not key in the semantic understanding of the sentence in full.

5. The use of a comma is mandatory when the sentence contains adjectives that are equivalent or homogeneous. This means that they can be rearranged by separating them with a comma in the middle.

6. There are several specific elements that need to be separated in a sentence with commas. These are the following: as a result, of course, thus, for example, in conclusion, therefore, finally, in addition, also, instead, above all, in other words, otherwise.

7. A comma is mandatory used in all quotations that are in the English language.

8. Unlike the Uzbek language, in English one can observe such a pattern of a comma that it is placed in the spelling of various dates. For example, June 27, 1993.

9. When listing different states or cities, they must be separated from each other by a comma. Regardless of how many this enumeration goes, two or more words.

10. A comma must be used when the text or sentence describes the personality and character of a particular person. It is the expression that is the description that is separated by commas.

Many people, when studying English, sometimes make certain mistakes in punctuation precisely because they often use Uzbek rules, which is fundamentally wrong. Of course, by carefully reading the sentence, you can immediately understand where to put a comma. This only happens when the reading is done aloud. Since intonation can put everything in its place.

But still, if you want to avoid ridiculous mistakes, it is better to spend enough time on learning the most important comma rules in English. These rules are not very complicated and are quite understandable to any person, as they are stated clearly and concisely. This will help to avoid unnecessary information and learn the main rules.

In order to quickly understand the principles by which a comma is placed, it is necessary to spend more time with the English press, while always paying attention to all punctuation marks. The same applies to literature. It is better to read aloud, with expression, making the necessary pauses in those places where commas occur. This will not only help you remember the placement of commas, but also make reading a more emotional and interesting process.

In order to fully master the whole ins and outs of English punctuation, you need to make a lot of effort. Despite the fact that all punctuation marks are quite small in size, they occupy a significant place in an English sentence. For example, they serve to separate sentences, clarifications, in order to correlate two thoughts into one, and of course, for intonation. If we read any text without taking into account punctuation, we may not understand the meaning or get confused in the process.

Most of all sentences that only exist in English end with a dot. In some cases, depending on the type of sentences, there may be a question mark or an exclamation mark at the end. An amazing fact to remember is that interrogative and exclamatory sentences are in almost all cases smaller than regular ones [5].

After the main punctuation marks, which are placed at the end of a thought or sentence, a comma is in second place. There are a lot of rules for setting a comma in English, but they are completely simple, so remembering them will not be difficult.

Most often, a comma in an English sentence can be seen in the place where you need to separate several simple sentences. Also, a comma is placed with introductory words and subordinate clauses, when listing something and where direct speech is used. A comma is also used when it is necessary to separate adverbial clauses that come before the main clause.

Quotation marks most often show direct speech, as well as various names. In some cases, quotation marks mark ordinary words in a sentence if they are used in a figurative sense.

The colon is sometimes used before direct speech, as well as in cases where there are explanations, quotations or enumerations.

The semicolon serves as a separation of simple sentences that are located as part of a complex one, but only if they do not have a separating union.

Parentheses are used when something needs to be explained or clarified in a sentence. Another sign in this case is placed outside the brackets or in them if it is relevant to the explanation.

Sometimes you can see square brackets in English punctuation. Most often they are used in books or the press, if quotations have been added there that were not previously observed.

The apostrophe is not uncommon in English texts. Most often, it indicates an abbreviated form of words or nouns in the genitive case. In some cases, the apostrophe does not refer to a single word, but to a whole expression or phrase.

A dash is used when an important comment needs to be highlighted in a sentence. In this case, you have to interrupt the original flow of words. In this case, you need to separate the dashes on both sides with spaces. But there are cases where dashes do not need to be separated by spaces. For example, when specifying a range, roles of several people, a transport route.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

When learning grammar, it is also very important to know the uses of the apostrophe, an unusual fact is that the apostrophe is the most used punctuation mark of all that are in the English language. It is a comma that is located above the line, next to the word. It is quite difficult for many to figure out exactly where to put this comma on top. But if you try a little, everything is extremely simple.

First you need to understand that the apostrophe is used in only a few cases. To show the abbreviation of words or numbers. And also when it is necessary to show belonging to something. Let's analyze these cases in more detail.

If it is necessary to show any ownership, in which case, the owner is represented in the singular, an apostrophe is used before the s ('s). At the same time, it makes absolutely no difference how many things the owner owns (one doll, several balls), the main thing is that he himself be presented in the singular, regardless of the feminine or masculine gender.

The apostrophe is after s(s') when the owner of someone or something is plural. But there are a number of nouns that are not quite typical, namely the plural was formed in a different way, and they put the apostrophe in the same place as in nouns that are presented in the singular. This is due to the fact that the ending of these words with s.

The apostrophe is used in words where there are two s in a row at the end of the noun, which is used in the singular. For example, Charles's book. In the case when the noun also refers to the noun, the apostrophe must be placed on the last element.

For example, sister-in-law's. At the end of some words that denote professions, they also put an apostrophe.

An important feature of the apostrophe is its ability to abbreviate letters and numbers. Most often, this method is used in spoken language. Rock'n'roll is a prime example. An apostrophe can be used to pluralize individual letters.

Sometimes this is necessary in order to make it more convenient to read nouns that are plural. The apostrophe is also used when talking about large decades and years. For example, riotedin '68 (mutiny in 1968).

The apostrophe may indicate that the obsolete original word was in fact once longer. But at the same time, it was made simpler. In books, the apostrophe is often used when it is necessary to highlight a particular dialect or atypical speech.

Many people make the same mistake. They put an apostrophe where it doesn't belong at all. There are several rules where this sign should not be used.

- apostrophe cannot be used for possessive pronouns (for example, ours, whose, theirs)
- Do not use an apostrophe for nouns that are not possessive (for example, CDs or 2000s)
- in verbs you cannot put an apostrophe, only in some cases when they end in s
- do not confuse the possessive pronoun its with the abbreviation it's, these are completely different meanings. This also includes who's and whose.

It is also known that when communicating in any language, there is often a situation when you need to say something about your assumptions, conditional situations or regrets (if I then ...). For such situations, the subjunctive mood is used. In English, to construct a phrase in the subjunctive mood, firstly, a verb in the past tense (the first form of the past) is required, and secondly, in some cases an auxiliary verb would or should is required. In addition, in some situations it is even necessary to use Perfect. This is easy to get confused, especially for beginners, so this topic requires careful study and long development. Consider several ways to form the subjunctive mood, suitable for various situations [11, 12].

The first case is sentences like "If I were there / if I could." Such sentences are composed according to the following scheme: If (if) + semantic verb in the past tense (first form) + would and the second verb. The last part is not always present, you can do without it:

- If only I could swim! If only I could swim!
- so with her:
- If only I could run so fast I would win the race - If I could run so fast, I would win the competition

The addition or omission of the second part depends on what exactly needs to be said in a particular situation. Also, instead of if with this education model, you can use other indicators of conditionality, for example, I wish (I would like):

- I wish I could run faster - How I wish I could run faster!

The second case concerns sentences in which in Uzbek the two parts are connected by the union "to":

- I wish he worked harder

- It was important that he understood his mistake. — It was important that he understood his mistake.

She would prefer that we should go away at seven o'clock.

Here a similar scheme is applied, but the verb should is added. It is put in cases where the sentence contains a desire that the next action be done by someone (as in the last sentence). Another difference from the previous case is that in this scheme, parts of the sentence are connected by the union that.

Note that prefer (prefer) is most often used in this form (would prefer), so you can safely use this particular way of forming the subjunctive mood with this verb.

Finally, the third case refers to the past and is used in a situation where it is necessary to say that one or another action in the past would have led to a different result.

- She hasn't missed the train if she had walked faster - She would not have missed the train if she had gone faster

In such cases, the perfect is used, and for events closer to the moment of speech, the present perfect is used, for events more distant in time from the moment of speech, the past perfect (for example, in the last sentence: she would not have missed the train (present perfect), if (before that) I went faster (past perfect)).

In addition to all of the above, it often becomes necessary to say about the condition of any action or situation (we will go for a walk if the rain stops, etc.). For this, the present and future tenses are used. Let's look at an example:

- We will go for a walk if it stops raining - We will go for a walk if it stops raining.

In the first part, which deals with an action or situation, the tense in which it (a) is implied (i.e., the future) is used, and in the part containing the condition, the present. This scheme works for all conditional sentences of this type (this will happen if such and such conditions are met). Parts can be rearranged, but you need to remember that in such sentences after if, the present tense is always used. Sometimes it is possible to use the future tense after if, as in the following example:

- I pray we'll meet again if He will deliver us (Prince of Egypt, 1998) , 1998)

But this is only allowed for native speakers and in colloquial speech. For learners of English as a foreign language, it is generally better to use the simple present tense in such cases, or, if it is a question of probability or possibility, you can put would:

- I pray we'll meet again if He would deliver us - I pray that we will meet again if He delivers us.



## CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, one can notice the fact that the topic is relevant today. And the article presented the necessary rules for using punctuation, punctuation, the use of an apostrophe and the subjunctive mood in English, which gives a basic understanding of the grammar of the language, and consequently contributes to the development of colloquial speech.

Thus, the freedom to use the language is the reason for so many errors. In this case, people often begin to rely on intuition, which, of course, does not always lead to the desired result. As a result of all this, very unexpected variants of the use of punctuation marks arise. But, on the other hand, English punctuation is a strictly regulated and at the same time creative concept. It must be remembered that for each situation there may be a completely different worldview, displayed by a different arrangement of punctuation marks.

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