Punctuating Complete Sentences

A Complete Sentence = A subject + a verb + a full thought

Ex: Gus ate too many sausages at dinner.

What punctuation can you use at the end of a sentence?
A period [.] or a question mark [?] or an exclamation mark [!]

Ex: We finally got home.
Where were we?
It’s fantastic to be back!

Punctuation Road Signs

Think of every sentence you write as a road taking the reader on a journey.

The reader, who is traveling the road of your sentences, needs signs to help them pause, stop, and start in the right places. In writing, these road signs are called punctuation.

• **The period** [.] is a full-stop or red light at the end of each sentence.

• **The semicolon** [;] is also a full-stop or red light. It marks the end of a sentence and signals the beginning of another sentence or related independent clause.

• **The comma** [,] indicates a pause, but it never signals the end of a sentence. Using a comma instead of a period at the end of a sentence is called a comma splice.

• **No end punctuation whatsoever** creates the dangerous situation of run-on sentences. This lack of punctuation confuses the reader who cannot tell where one sentence ends and another begins.