

# Y6

## Expected Punctuation

### Colons and dashes

Colons and dashes both **add detail** and **sum up** a phrase or clause. A colon is more formal than a dash.

There were only two options : *fight or run.*  
There was no escape — *the door was locked.*

### Exclamation marks

Exclamation marks mark the end of an exclamation.

Ouch! That hurts!  
What big teeth you have!

### Full stops

Full stops mark the end of a sentence.

I like shopping.  
It is over there.

### Semi-colons

Semi-colons link related **independent clauses**. They often replace **co-ordinating conjunctions**.

I ordered a drink **and** my friend asked for a burger.  
I ordered a drink ; my friend asked for a burger.

### Hyphens

Hyphens join words together to make them compound words.

right — handed

I am right-handed and  
my friend is left-handed.

### Apostrophes

Apostrophes are used for **omission** (missing out letters) or **possession** (showing belonging).

Would not      wouldn't

The pencil belongs to Molly.  
It is Molly's pencil.

### Inverted commas

Inverted commas are used to punctuate **direct speech**.

"How lovely to see you!" exclaimed Mum.

### Question marks

Question marks mark the end of a question.

Where is it?  
What's the time?

### Commas

Commas separate words in a list. These might be **adjectives** or a **list of objects**.

The **old, bearded** wizard.  
I packed my **books, pencil case and lunchbox**.

Commas also separate an **independent clause** from a **subordinate clause**.

*Although it was raining,* we still went outside.  
*Since it is my birthday,* we're going out.

### Parentheses

Parentheses are used to add in **extra information**. Brackets, dashes and commas can be used.

The athletes — **all 24 of them** — were ready.  
The athletes (**all 24 of them**) were ready.  
The athletes, **all 24 of them**, were ready.