

Stage 3 Writing Tips for Parents



Complex Punctuation



Syllabus Links

EN3-6B: A student uses knowledge of sentence structure, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary to respond to and compose clear and cohesive texts in different media and technologies.

Content: - understand that choices in grammar, punctuation and vocabulary contribute to the effectiveness of texts.

- use complex punctuation to engage the reader and achieve purpose.
- understand the uses of commas to separate clauses.

Advice for Parents

Punctuation is used to support both meaning and the smooth reading of texts. It signals to the reader how a sentence is constructed and how it should be read, ensuring that the main idea of the text is clear. The use of complex punctuation allows students to express their written thoughts with clarity and creativity. It includes using a range of different writing devices, including commas, hyphens, colons, semi-colons, exclamation marks and speech bubbles. In order to help your child improve their understanding of complex punctuation, it is important to help them understand the transition from using capital letters and full stops to more advanced techniques to better express the meaning of the sentence. Attached to this sheet is a list of activities you can run with your child at home to develop their literacy and integrate complex punctuation in their day to day routines.

Activities at Home

Famous Quotes

Finding famous quotes from books, pop idols, sport athletes or political figures, students practise to experiment with the meaning of sentences by re-writing the quote using complex punctuation. Students can then reflect on the new meaning and purpose of the quote.

Book Treasure Hunt

Using a novel of their choice, students are to search for the following forms of complex punctuation. They will write the sentence down and why they believe the punctuation was used.

- A hyphen.
- A semi-colon.
- A colon.
- An ellipsis.
- An exclamation mark.

Music Magic

Students are to find the lyrics of a song they are interested in. Students are then to re-write the chorus using a variety of complex punctuation. They may sing this to themselves with the melody of the song and reflect on the change in meaning.

Say and Write

Saying a common phrase to your child, such as 'How was your day?', 'What did you play at recess today?' or 'What was your favourite part of the activity?', students are to write their answer using complex punctuation.