

# "Young people say full stop is intimidating"

## GAP FILL

In British English it is the full stop; in American English the (1) \_\_\_\_\_. This punctuation mark has been used for (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to end sentences or in abbreviations. It seems that with the younger (3) \_\_\_\_\_ today, its use is changing. A report from Binghamton University in New York shows the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ full stop is "intimidating" to young people because they view it as a sign of (5) \_\_\_\_\_. This is especially so on social media, where many youngsters largely (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the use of punctuation, except for a liberal use of exclamation (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Linguist Professor David Crystal said: "Usage of full stops is being 'revised in a really fundamental way'. People simply do not put full stops in, unless they want to make a (8) \_\_\_\_\_."

*centuries*

*anger*

*period*

*humble*

*marks*

*point*

*generation*

*forego*

Linguistics (9) \_\_\_\_\_ studied the effect of technology on the way we use language. Dr Lauren Fonteyn said: "If you send a text message without a full stop, it's already (10) \_\_\_\_\_ that you've concluded the message." She suggested that finished messages with full stops are (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of by young people as being insincere. Journalist Victoria Turk wrote: "In a messaging conversation, a period is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ not necessary. It's clear when you've finished your (13) \_\_\_\_\_, so what function does the period fulfill? As a result, using a period in messaging...can come across as if you're quite cross or (14) \_\_\_\_\_." She added full stops are being used after every word in a (15) \_\_\_\_\_. She gave the (16) \_\_\_\_\_: "Just. Look. How. Emphatic. This. Is."

*perceived*

*thought*

*example*

*experts*

*sentence*

*simply*

*obvious*

*annoyed*

# "Brain-hacking chip could give us superpowers"

## GAP FILL

Technology trailblazer Elon Musk has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a pig with a computer chip implanted in her brain that could (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the way to computer-to-brain interfaces in humans. Mr Musk has a near-unrivalled record in (3) \_\_\_\_\_ technology, from electric cars and hyperloop travel to space (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Gertrude the pig showcases his latest ambition - to allow us to control computers with our brains. Conversely, computers could (5) \_\_\_\_\_ our brainpower and abilities. The interface is part of a tech startup called Neuralink. Mr Musk announced that (6) \_\_\_\_\_ would soon begin on humans. He believes the technology represents a giant (7) \_\_\_\_\_ into the future and will considerably change our lives by giving us superhuman (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*pioneering*  
*enhance*  
*powers*  
*unveiled*  
*leap*  
*tourism*  
*pave*  
*trials*

The results shown in Gertrude the pig were somewhat (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in comparison to the potential Mr Musk (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the technology will one day deliver. He hopes Neuralink will help people with neurological conditions like strokes, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and headaches. It could also mean our brain is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ directly to the Internet. Just like in a science fiction movie, we could control phones, computers and household (13) \_\_\_\_\_ simply with the power of thought. The most mind-blowing aspect of the technology is what Musk calls "superhuman (14) \_\_\_\_\_". This is to counter artificial intelligence becoming powerful enough to destroy the human (15) \_\_\_\_\_. He added the technology will "achieve (16) \_\_\_\_\_ with artificial intelligence".

*wired*  
*envisages*  
*race*  
*devices*  
*modest*  
*symbiosis*  
*dementia*  
*cognition*

Write sentences, using the tense given. Add any words you need.

1. The boys – can – climb – the mountain (**past simple**)

The boys could climb the mountain

2. You – ever – visit – your cousin – in Scotland? (**present perfect simple**)

Have you ever visited your cousin in Scotland?

3. I – go – doctor – if -I – be – you (**conditional 1**)

4. She – learn – English – two years (**present perfect progressive**)

5. What – you – think – of the weather – in Spain? (**present simple**)

6. What – he – do – now? (**present progressive**)

7. We walk – down the street – when – police car – pass – by (**past**)

8. We – talk – a lot (**past perfect simple**)

9. We – never – read – any books – by this author (**present perfect simple**)

10. He – be – interesting man – when – he – be – young (**past simple**)

11. I – think – I – have – a drink (**future**)

12. The shop – open – at 9 a.m. – next Monday (**present progressive**)

13. America – discover – by Columbus (**past simple**)

14. I – go – to – the dentist (**conditional 2**)

15. We – discuss – topic – for many hours. (**present perfect progressive**)

16. I – work – for 12 hours – when – I – finally – go – home (**past perfect progressive, past simple**)

17. You – go – France – next year? (**going to future**)

18. They – finish – their homework – when – I – come (**past**)

Complete the sentences with one of the prepositions from the box.

**AT - BELOW - BETWEEN - BY - FOR - FROM - IN - NEAR - OF - ON -  
OVER - TO - UNDER - WITH**

1. Where do you come \_\_\_\_\_? – I'm American.
2. Our cat always lies \_\_\_\_\_ the table when we have dinner.
3. They walked \_\_\_\_\_ the bridge together.
4. He returned safely \_\_\_\_\_ his expedition to the Antarctic.
5. There's always a lot to see \_\_\_\_\_ an airport.
6. Venice is always full \_\_\_\_\_ tourists.
7. What was his reaction \_\_\_\_\_ the news?
8. There has been an increase \_\_\_\_\_ the number of cars on this road.
9. I am very impressed \_\_\_\_\_ your good language skills.
10. He was sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the fire.
11. Could you take a picture \_\_\_\_\_ me, please?
12. Although she's 25 she still lives \_\_\_\_\_ her parents.
13. He was in Tokyo yesterday but this morning he's left \_\_\_\_\_ Beijing.
14. I'll meet you \_\_\_\_\_ the corner.
15. The advantage \_\_\_\_\_ having a car is that you don't have to rely \_\_\_\_\_ public transport.
16. Everything can be explained. There's a reason \_\_\_\_\_ everything.
17. She left school \_\_\_\_\_ the age of 16.
18. Catherine is a good friend \_\_\_\_\_ mine.
19. Who is responsible \_\_\_\_\_ the noise that was made yesterday?
20. There are a few differences \_\_\_\_\_ American and British English.
21. It was terribly cold outside. It must have been 25 ° \_\_\_\_\_ zero.
22. Money isn't the solution \_\_\_\_\_ every problem.
23. You could take a taxi but it's better to go \_\_\_\_\_ foot.
24. Civil servants are \_\_\_\_\_ strike today.
25. The workers demanded a rise \_\_\_\_\_ pay.

**Complete the sentences using SOME / ANY / SOMEONE / ANYONE / SOMETHING / ANYTHING / SOMEWHERE / ANYWHERE.**

1. Mum, have we got \_\_\_\_\_ eggs in the fridge? – Of course, I bought \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday.
2. There's \_\_\_\_\_ at the door. – Are you expecting \_\_\_\_\_?
3. Did you go \_\_\_\_\_ last night?
4. You've got to do \_\_\_\_\_ about it. Otherwise the situation will get out of control.
5. Choose \_\_\_\_\_ number between 1 and 10. It doesn't matter which one.
6. I can't find my cell phone. I must have left it \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I need \_\_\_\_\_ tomatoes to make this salad. – Sorry, we haven't got \_\_\_\_\_ at home. – Well could you hop over to the greengrocer's and get \_\_\_\_\_, please.
8. I've got \_\_\_\_\_ banknotes, but I don't have \_\_\_\_\_ coins.
9. This party is so boring. – Let's go \_\_\_\_\_ else.
10. Is there \_\_\_\_\_ you need? – No, I'm just looking for \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Is there \_\_\_\_\_ in the classroom with a blue sweater?
12. John lives \_\_\_\_\_ in London, but I don't really know the exact address.
13. Does \_\_\_\_\_ in the audience have a mobile phone?
14. Could I have \_\_\_\_\_ more coffee please?
15. I would like to go \_\_\_\_\_ this summer, but not just \_\_\_\_\_. I'd like to travel abroad.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ can play this game. It's easy.
17. I went shopping yesterday. I bought \_\_\_\_\_ socks, but I didn't buy \_\_\_\_\_ shoes.
18. Have there been \_\_\_\_\_ phone calls for me while I was out? – Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ called an hour ago. There was \_\_\_\_\_ he had to tell you.
19. There isn't \_\_\_\_\_ sitting at the table, but there's \_\_\_\_\_ sitting at the bar.
20. Where is my notebook? – I can't find it \_\_\_\_\_.
21. There must be \_\_\_\_\_ you can add to our discussion. Just don't sit there without saying \_\_\_\_\_.
22. I don't want to go to the Jake's party. I don't know \_\_\_\_\_ there.
23. Can we go \_\_\_\_\_ else to talk? It's so loud here.
24. \_\_\_\_\_ bus will take you to the town centre.
25. There's \_\_\_\_\_ I want to introduce to you.



## Spelling Challenge

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For each question only one is spelled correctly. Write the letter of the correctly spelled word in the space.

\_\_\_ A. TANGIBLEE B. TANGIBLE C. TANGIBL  
\_\_\_ D. TANGIBEL

\_\_\_ A. HORRIBLE B. HORRIBL C. HORIBLE  
\_\_\_ D. HORRIBLEE

\_\_\_ A. XPRESS B. EXPROSS C. EXPRES D. EXPRESS

\_\_\_ A. ENTRENCE B. ENNTRANCE C. ENTRANCE  
\_\_\_ D. ENTRAHCE

\_\_\_ A. ABTORB B. ABSORB C. ABSURB D. ABSERB

\_\_\_ A. ELECTRICITY B. ELECTRICITE C. ELECTRIKITY  
\_\_\_ D. ELECTRISITY

\_\_\_ A. BRATH B. BRREATHE C. BREITHE D. BREATHE

\_\_\_ A. INFORMUTION B. INFFORMATION  
\_\_\_ C. ENFORMATION D. INFORMATION

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