

# "Young people say full stop is intimidating"

## GAP FILL

In British English it is the full stop; in American English the (1) period. This punctuation mark has been used for (2) centuries to end sentences or in abbreviations. It seems that with the younger (3) generation today, its use is changing. A report from Binghamton University in New York shows the (4) humble full stop is "intimidating" to young people because they view it as a sign of (5) anger. This is especially so on social media, where many youngsters largely (6) forego the use of punctuation, except for a liberal use of exclamation (7) marks. 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) point."

Linguistics (9) experts 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) obvious that you've concluded the message." She suggested that finished messages with full stops are (11) perceived of by young people as being insincere. Journalist Victoria Turk wrote: "In a messaging conversation, a period is (12) simply not necessary. It's clear when you've finished your (13) thought, 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) annoyed." She added full stops are being used after every word in a (15) sentence. She gave the (16) example: "Just. Look. How. Emphatic. This. Is."

*centuries*

*anger*

*period*

*humble*

*marks*

*point*

*generation*

*forego*

*perceived*

*thought*

*example*

*experts*

*sentence*

*simply*

*obvious*

*annoyed*

# "Brain-hacking chip could give us superpowers"

## GAP FILL

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

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

# ALL TENSES

## KEY

1. The boys – can – climb – the mountain (**past simple**)  
**The boys could/were able to 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**)  
**I would go to the doctor if I were/was you.**
4. She – learn – English – two years (**present perfect progressive**)  
**She has been learning English for two years.**
5. What – you – think – of the weather – in Spain? (**present simple**)  
**What do you think of the weather in Spain?**
6. What – he – do – now? (**present progressive**)  
**What is he doing now?**
7. We walk – down the street – when – police car – pass – by (**past**)  
**We were walking down the street when a police car passed by.**
8. We – talk – a lot (**past perfect simple**)  
**We had talked a lot.**
9. We – never – read – any books – by this author (**present perfect simple**)  
**We have never read any books by this author.**
10. He – be – interesting man – when – he – be – young (**past simple**)  
**He was an interesting man when he was young.**
11. I – think – I – have – a drink (**future**)  
**I think I'll have a drink.**
12. The shop – open – at 9 a.m. – next Monday (**present progressive**)  
**The shop is opening at 5 next Monday.**
13. America – discover – by Columbus (**past simple**)  
**America was discovered by Columbus.**
14. I – go – to – the dentist (**conditional 2**)  
**I would have gone to the dentist.**
15. We – discuss – topic – for many hours. (**present perfect progressive**)  
**We have been discussing the topic for many hours.**
16. I – work – for 12 hours – when – I – finally – go – home (**past perfect progressive, past simple**)  
**I had been working for 12 hours when I finally went home.**
17. You – go – France – next year? (**going to future**)  
**Are you going to go to France next year?**
18. They – finish – their homework – when – I – come (**past**)  
**They were finishing their homework when I came.**

## PREPOSITIONS

### KEY

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

## SOME/ANY AND COMPOUNDS

### KEY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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