

# РОЛЬ ПУНКТУАЦИИ В ПОНИМАНИИ ЭМОЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ ОКРАСКИ ТЕКСТА

В. В. Гарбуз, Е. В. Трафимович  
БГПУ (Минск)

Научн. рук. – Е. И. Маркосьян, канд. филолог. наук, доц.

**Аннотация.** В статье рассматривается проблема пунктуации в английском языке и роль знаков препинания в определении конкретного смысла высказывания.

**Key words:** comma; colon; hyphen and the dash.

Punctuation in the English language is the topic which is not paid due attention. As a rule, at schools and universities much attention is paid to the grammar structure word collocations, phonetics pronunciation, with punctuation often left out.

We consider punctuation as important and useful means of communication.

A text or a sentence correct from the point of grammatical and lexical structure can be misunderstood by the speaker or distorted completely if not punctuated properly. This is the reason why we decided to touch upon this issue today. The student of English should know what punctuation mark should be put, let us say, before an attributive clause, or after an adverbial clause of concession, but he is not greatly concerned about what to do with the colon or the semicolon. Besides, it is not easy to memorize the numerous types and functions of the punctuation marks.

There are following types of punctuation: comma, exclamation mark, question mark, colon, semicolon, quotation mark, apostrophe, hyphen and dash, parentheses and brackets. Due to space restrictions we will limit this article to considering only three of them, concentrating on the most common cases of comma, the colon and the exclamation mark.

Let us start by examining some cases, when we use commas. Most of them deal with lists, and therefore include the following examples:

1) A series of independent clauses:

*I met Harry, we went for a swim together, and afterwards Harry went home.*

2) A series of nouns:

*With world famous museums, art galleries, theatres, parks, shops, restaurants and a buzzing nightlife, London has something on offer for everyone.*

*I'm sure you've heard of the classic 'English breakfast' which includes eggs, bacon, sausages, toast, tomatoes and baked beans.*

3) A series of adjectives:

*I was told before that she was charming, intelligent, well-read, gracious.*

*The café was well-lit, spacious, airy, comfortable and inviting.*

4) A series of verbs or phrases:

*Tony ran towards me, fell, yelled, and fainted.*

*The boy leapt, spun, twisted, and dove into the water.*

*He runs up to the house, lets his dog inside, opens the door, and then leaves.*

5) The comma is used to enclose non-defining relative clauses and other non-essential details and comments. In this case a comma is placed on either side of the insertion [4]:

*China, one of the most powerful nations on Earth, has a huge population.*

*Later we departed for Polotsk, one of the most historically important cities in Belarus.*

*Cats, unlike dogs, do not respect their masters.*

6) Participial phrases, tag questions, interjections:

*He is an incredibly apt young man, isn't he?*

*How's your Mum, has she recovered? – Yes, she is much better, thank you.*

As we can see, the comma is most widely used for (but not limited to) joining homogenous clauses or homogenous parts of the sentence. However, there are further rules which are to be observed, including using commas in comparisons. Putting a comma in the wrong place can result in a sentence with a completely different meaning: “*I detest liars like you; I believe that honesty is the best policy*” implies “I detest you because you are a liar”, while “*I detest liars, like you, I believe that honesty is the best policy*” means “You and I both detest liars”.

There are many more anecdotic examples to demonstrate how punctuation makes a difference. Two of them are cited below.

Example A. *One day, as a teacher walked into the classroom, he heard Tommy Andrews whisper to the boy next to him. “Here's the teacher. I'll bet the silly donkey is going to talk about putting commas.” The teacher did not say anything but began to talk about putting in commas, and explained how important they could be.*

*To show what he meant, he wrote on the blackboard a sentence:*

*“Tommy Andrews says the teacher is a silly donkey.”*

*The class laughed and Tommy looked very red.*

*“Now,” said the teacher, “I will show you how important commas are”:*

*“Tommy Andrews, says the teacher, is a silly donkey”.*

Example B. *An English Professor wrote: “A woman without her man is nothing” and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.*

*All the males in the class wrote: “A woman, without her man, is nothing.”*

*All females in the class wrote: “A woman: without her, man is nothing.”*

The use of colon, like that of the previously discussed comma, is also strongly connected with lists. “The colon expands on the sentence that precedes it, often introducing a list that demonstrates or elaborates whatever was previously stated: *He collected a strange assortment of items: bird's eggs, stamps, bottle tops, string, and buttons* [5]. The colon is also used to divide the hour from the minutes in writing a time in English: *4:15 = “four fifteen”, a quarter past four.*

The exclamation mark is used to express exasperation, astonishment, or surprise, or to emphasize a comment or short, sharp phrase, e.g.: *Help! Help!* or *That is unbelievable!* In professional or everyday writing, exclamation marks are used sparingly if at all.

You can also use exclamation marks to mark a phrase as humorous, ironic or sarcastic: *What a lovely day!* (when it obviously is not a lovely day).

By way of conclusion, we should like to emphasize that correct punctuation, used to create clarity and stress in sentences, makes your English clearer and better organized.

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