



IELTS Writing Community

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Lecture 27 Punctuation in IELTS Writing

Capital Letters

When starting a new sentence.

- **T**his is because the elderly population has played a very important role in our society and they are the reason for our existence.

When using proper nouns and acronyms.

- Developed countries such as the **U**K and the **U**S play a key role in the direction the world's economy takes.

Comma

When separating items on a list.

- Elderly people teach us values, traditions and how to deal with life experiences.

Before a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, so, for, yet) that links two independent clauses.

- Scientists have been warning us about the effects of climate change for years, but many people have chosen not to listen.

After an introductory phrase (including linking words, discourse markers and dependent clauses)

- In my opinion, parents are responsible for teaching their children values like kindness and compassion.

Comma

In subordinate structures when the subordinate clause comes first.

- If all supermarkets charged a fee for the use of plastic bags, more people would be encouraged to bring their own reusable bags when shopping.

When providing additional information about a concept, to separate essential and non-essential information.

- The graph shows the amount of time that schoolchildren, who are between the ages of 6 and 12, spend on different home activities.

Semi-Colon

To join two independent clauses that share the same main idea.

- Immigration isn't a black and white issue; it's actually much more complicated than most people think.

In a list to separate objects that also have commas.

- The cities mentioned in the study include Paris, France; Athens, Greece; and Berlin, Germany.

Apostrophes

For contractions

- Immigration **isn't** a black and white issue; **it's** actually much more complicated than most people think.
- **It's** its foreign policy.

To indicate ownership

- Children's toys
- Parents' responsibilities
- Sunday's football game
- A hard day's work
- Iran's foreign policy



Hyphen

When two or more words collectively serve as an adjective before the word they are modifying, those words should normally be hyphenated.

- a **part-time** worker
- **well-behaved** child
- The actress is **well-known**.
- She adopted a **two-year-old** son.



Try not to use : ! ? “ ()

Contact me



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