

Grammer Lee

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LESSON 6

AP Guidance on Parenthesis and Quotations

Parenthesis

- Decide whether the punctuation belongs to the parenthetical itself or the main sentence.
- Place a period outside a closing parenthesis if the material inside is not a sentence (such as this fragment).
- (An independent parenthetical sentence such as this one takes a period before the closing parenthesis.)
- When a phrase placed in parentheses (this one is an example) might normally qualify as a complete sentence but is dependent on the surrounding material, do not capitalize the first word or end with a period.

Words of Wisdom

“The temptation to use parentheses is a clue that a sentence is becoming contorted. Try to write it another way. If a sentence must contain incidental material, then commas or two dashes are frequently more effective. Use these alternatives whenever possible.”

“There are occasions, however, when parentheses are the only effective means of inserting necessary background or reference information.”

Introducing Direct Quotations

Use a comma to introduce a complete one-sentence quotation within a paragraph: Wallace said, *"She spent six months in Argentina and came back speaking English with a Spanish accent."*

Before Attribution:

Use a comma instead of a period at the end of a quotation that is followed by attribution: *"Write clearly and concisely," she said.*

Other Examples

Periods and Commas:

Inside the quotation marks.

EXAMPLE: *She said, “We will meet tomorrow.”*

Colons and Semicolons:

Outside the quotation marks.

EXAMPLE: *I like the word “serendipity”; it sounds magical.*

Question Marks and Exclamation Points:

Depends on meaning:

If part of the quoted material → inside: *He asked, “Are you coming?”*

If part of the whole sentence → outside: *Did he really say, “I hate pizza”?*

Impactful Word?

According to (the other) Grammarly:

- Impactful emerged in the 1960s as an adjective meaning “manifesting a great effect or impact.”
- It’s now very common in corporate communications, presentations and media.
- Some critics reject impactful as an illogical, unnecessary and clumsy piece of jargon.
- Yes, impactful is a word, but it’s likely to annoy at least some of your readers. If you want to substitute another word for impactful, use a synonym such as influential, powerful or effective.

Commonly Confused Words

EVERY DAY VS. EVERYDAY

Every day (two words)

MEANING: each day/daily

PART OF SPEECH: adverb phrase
(tells when/how often something happens)

EXAMPLES:

- *I drink coffee every day.*
- *She practices the piano every day after school.*

TIP: If you can replace it with “each day,” then use every day.

Everyday (one word)

MEANING: ordinary, typical, commonplace

PART OF SPEECH: adjective
(describes a noun)

EXAMPLES:

- *These are my everyday shoes.*
- *Traffic jams are an everyday occurrence in big cities.*

TIP: If it describes a noun (everyday clothes, everyday problems), use everyday.

Commonly Confused Words

(REVISITED)

Toward, NOT towards, per AP Style.

According to multiple sources:

Toward is preferred in American English.

Towards is preferred in British English.

Meaning is the same—in the direction of.

Oops in the Wild



Thank You!