

Full stop seen as rude in text messages

17th August, 2019

why we use the full stop.

A language expert says using a full stop to end sentences in text messages can look rude. A full stop is used in British English; in American English, this punctuation mark is called a period. Linguist Gretchen McCulloch says more and more

people think ending messages with a full stop is rude. She said this view is most common in younger people who use instant messaging apps like Twitter and Facebook Messenger. Ms McCulloch said people prefer to send a completely new message instead of ending a sentence with a full stop. She said: "If you're a young person and you're sending a message to someone, the default way to break up your thoughts is to send each thought as a new message."

The full stop dates back around 2,300 years. It is an essential part of writing today. School teachers can put lots of comments in red ink on a student's writing if that student forgets to add the full stop at the end of his or her sentence. However, technology is changing the way we write. Most people now use abbreviations or acronyms in text messages. They might use the acronym 'LOL' instead of writing 'laugh out loud,' or the abbreviation 'fyi' rather than typing 'for your information'. Ms McCulloch says not using the full stop helps the writer save time. She also says that a full stop can make the writer look a little aggressive. Many people prefer to end a sentence with an emoji or emoticon instead of a full stop :-)

Sources: bbc.com / thesun.co.uk / dailymail.co.uk

Writing

It is very important to always use punctuation correctly. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

language / expert / text messages / punctuation / Twitter / Facebook / full stop / send / essential / writing / sentence / technology / abbreviations / emojis / information / LOL

True / False

- a) The article said a teacher commented on the use of full stops in texts. T / F
- b) The word full stop in American English is 'period'. T / F
- c) Younger people are less likely to use a full stop when texting. T / F
- d) Young people tend to send a new message rather than use a full stop. T / F
- e) The full stop is about 230 years old. T / F
- f) The acronym LOL means 'lots of learning'. T / F
- g) The abbreviation 'fyi' means 'for your information'. T / F
- h) Very few people end a sentence with an emoji or emoticon. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. expert | a. finishing |
| 2. rude | b. like better |
| 3. ending | c. totally |
| 4. completely | d. important |
| 5. default | e. in place of |
| 6. essential | f. specialist |
| 7. changing | g. pushy |
| 8. instead of | h. transforming |
| 9. aggressive | i. bad-mannered |
| 10. prefer | j. automatic |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How important is punctuation?
- c) What is the most difficult think about punctuation?
- d) How do you feel when a teacher puts lots of red ink on your work?
- e) Do we really need capital letters?
- f) Is an emoticon better than a full stop?
- g) What do you think about emojis and emoticons?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the language expert?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. A language | a. ink |
| 2. this punctuation mark | b. new message |
| 3. this view is most common | c. a new message |
| 4. people prefer to send a completely | d. or emoticon |
| 5. send each thought as | e. acronyms |
| 6. The full stop dates back | f. is called a period |
| 7. red | g. writing 'laugh out loud' |
| 8. Most people now use abbreviations or | h. expert |
| 9. use the acronym 'LOL' instead of | i. around 2,300 years |
| 10. end a sentence with an emoji | j. in younger people |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of punctuation in English?
- Are you good at using punctuation?
- Is not using a full stop rude?
- Do you prefer the word 'full stop' or 'period'?
- Are older people better at writing?
- Is it important to use punctuation in text messages?
- What is punctuation like in your language?
- What is the full stop for?

Spelling

- A language rpeext
- this tnocinupuat mark is called a period
- this view is most commno in younger people
- sitntna messaging apps
- ending a cneesten with a full stop
- the ealtufd way
- an eeiasnslt part of writing today
- lots of mmotnesc in red ink
- ocehtgonyl is changing the way we write
- people now use abbreviations or amonycrs
- make the writer look a little egirsvsaeg
- an emoji or oemtoicn

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. a	4. c	5. j
6. d	7. h	8. e	9. g	10. b

Role Play

Role A – Smiley Face

You think the smiley face emoji is the most useful emoji. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their emojis. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): wink, heart or chocolate.

Role B – Wink

You think the wink emoji is the most useful emoji. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their emojis. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): smiley face emoji, heart or chocolate.

Role C – Heart

You think the heart emoji is the most useful emoji. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their emojis. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): wink, smiley face emoji or chocolate.

Role D – Chocolate

You think the chocolate emoji is the most useful emoji. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their emojis. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): wink, heart or smiley face emoji.

Speaking – Emojis

Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful emojis at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| • smiley face | • chocolate |
| • wink | • sun |
| • heart | • being sick |
| • waving hand | • headphones |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.