

PUNCTUATION

One sentence is wrong in each question. Which one?

1. Capital letters. Which sentence is wrong?

- a. We'll see you on **Wednesday**.
- b. I speak **S**panish very badly
- c. I like the weather here in the **W**inter
- d. **P**aul is a very difficult person to work with.

2. Commas. Which sentence is wrong?

- a. On our trip we went to Japan, Thailand, Bali and Australia.
- b. It was no surprise, that you failed the exam.
- c. My aunt Julie, who often visits us, will be here for Christmas
- d. 'I am not happy with your work', he said.

3. Question marks. Which sentence is wrong?

- a. I'll ask him what time it is?
- b. I wonder if he knows the answer to all the questions.
- c. You broke the window again?
- d. Your name is Jack?

4. Apostrophes. Which sentence is wrong?

- a. He doesn't know the answer, does he?
- b. She has lots of cat's at home.
- c. Joe's sister is in the Himalayas.
- d. The problem with the business is its location.

5. Quotation marks: are all of these correct?

- a. "You're crazy," she said with surprise.
- b. Hamlet was written by 'Shakespeare'.
- c. The problem of emigration is sometimes called the 'brain-drain'.
- d. The word 'rhythm' is difficult to spell.

6. Finishing sentences: are all of these correct?

- a. It was a great meal - but then I saw the bill.
- b. It was a great meal, but then I saw the bill!
- c. It was a great meal, but then I saw the bill...
- d. It was a great meal, but then I saw the bill?

PUNCTUATION - answers

1. Capital letters.

- a. We'll see you on **Wednesday**.
- b. I speak **Spanish** very badly.
- c. I like the weather here in the **Winter**. **This is incorrect. Seasons don't normally need a capital letter.**
- d. **Paul** is a very difficult person to work with.

2. Commas. Which sentence is wrong?

- a. On our trip we went to Japan, Thailand, Bali and Australia.
- b. It was no surprise, that you failed the exam. **This is incorrect. Commas cannot separate ideas connected with that, like this example.**
- c. My aunt Julie, who often visits us, will be here for Christmas
- d. 'I am not happy with your work', he said.

3. Question marks. Which sentence is wrong?

- a. I'll ask him what time it is? **This is incorrect, as this is an indirect question.**
- b. I wonder if he knows the answer to all the questions. **Note this is correct. For the same reason as above, this sentence doesn't need a question mark.**
- c. You broke the window again?
- d. Your name is Jack?

4. Apostrophes. Which sentence is wrong?

- a. He doesn't know the answer, does he?
- b. She has lots of cat's at home. **This is incorrect. Plurals normally don't need apostrophes.**
- c. Joe's sister is in the Himalayas.
- d. The problem with the business is its location. **Note this is correct. The possessive 'its' doesn't need an apostrophe either.**

5. Quotation marks: are all of these correct?

- a. "You're crazy," she said with surprise.
- b. Hamlet was written by 'Shakespeare'. **This is incorrect. The title should be 'Hamlet' and the author Shakespeare.**
- c. The problem of emigration is sometimes called the 'brain-drain'.
- d. The word 'rhythm' is difficult to spell.

6. Finishing sentences: are all of these correct?

- a. It was a great meal - but then I saw the bill.
- b. It was a great meal, but then I saw the bill!
- c. It was a great meal, but then I saw the bill...
- d. It was a great meal, but then I saw the bill? **This is not correct, although in spoken language it may be heard (with question intonation).**