

Make It Clear

The Poet's Punctuation Guide

Punctuation helps make meaning clear. Poets need to use it carefully. Complete this Punctuation Guide so you can make your ideas very clear when you write a poem.

Commas separate words in a series.

Our example: I saw a cat, a bat, a hat. Then I sat.

Your example: _____

Commas separate independent clauses joined by conjunctions.

Our example:

The dinosaur ate one bush, and then it ate a tree. Dear me!

Your example:

Commas set off introductory phrases and clauses.

Our example:

In fact, punctuation is one of the most helpful ways to make meaning clear in a poem.

Your example:

Apostrophes help people use fewer letters.

Here's our example: It's important to use apostrophes correctly.

What's your example?

Apostrophes show possession.

Our example: Jerome's poem was full of rhyming words.

_____ 's example:
(Your Name)

Exclamation points show importance.

Our example: Without punctuation, my poem doesn't make sense!

Your example:

Periods help people abbreviate.

E.g.: Etc., III.

Your examples:

Periods show what's over.

Our example: This is the end of the punctuation part of the poet's tool kit.

Your example:

The rest is up to you.
Explain more about punctuation marks.

Poet's Grammar Tool Kit

Here are three important rules of grammar. Use them when you write your poem.

1. Subjects and verbs agree.

Our example: The poem is inspiring. The poems are wonderful.

Your example:

2. An infinitive is a form of a verb; keep your infinitive connected.

Our example: To write a poem thoughtfully, think before you write.

Your example:

3. If you use the wrong tense, your reader will get tense.

Our example: The poet wrote one poem yesterday; the poet writes another poem today; the poet will write another poem tomorrow.

Your example:

4. What's a rule about using semi-colons that you will find we followed in our example for item 3? You write that rule.

Then you give your example.

5. Your turn--write another grammar rule that you think is important to a poet. Give your example, too.