1. Focus

Explain Exclamation Marks

Say: We already know that many sentences end with periods. But there are other kinds of punctuation marks that we can use at the end of sentences. Exclamation marks are a type of punctuation at the end of some sentences. They can be used to show strong feelings or surprise, to call attention to something, or to give a command. Today we’ll look at some sentences with exclamation marks.

Model Using Exclamation Marks

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources, and read it aloud to students. Read it first quietly and without much expression in your voice.

George wanted the customer to think, “Yuck!”
But George’s plan backfired!

Modeling Text

Say: I see an exclamation mark at the end of the first sentence. After reading this sentence I can tell that the author wanted the word yuck to express a strong feeling. At the end of the second sentence I see another exclamation mark. From this sentence I can tell that the author wanted to call attention to the fact that the plan backfired, and show that this was a surprise to George.

Say: Now I’ll read the sentences again. Read the sentences aloud, this time raising your voice and expressing the emotion in the sentences.

2. Rehearse

Practice Using Exclamation Marks

Display the practice text (without end punctuation) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

Ask students to work with a partner and read the sentences in each set aloud without any change in voice. Then ask students to add punctuation marks—either exclamation marks or periods—to the end of each sentence.
Strategies to Support ELs

**Beginning**
Help beginning ELs understand periods and exclamation marks. Concentrate on simple phrases or sentences that they will need to use in oral language. Say the following sentences one at a time and have students role-play them. Then write the sentences with the correct punctuation marks on chart paper. For example:

- This is my book.
- I took a walk.
- Don’t forget!
- That is great!

**Intermediate and Advanced**
Provide simple sentences to help ELs use exclamation marks and periods. For example:

- We won the game
- I went to the store
- Good luck on the test

**Practice Text**

1. Oh no!
   I just saw a spider. or!
   My sister thinks spiders are very scary.

2. Come here right now!
   We are late for the train. or!

3. I asked my mom to help me run a lemonade stand.
   That was the best idea I’ve ever had. or!
   We made ten dollars. or!

**Share Sentences with Exclamation Marks**
Have students reread the sentences with appropriate voice inflection. Discuss their responses. Ask the following questions:

- What end punctuation marks did you use for each sentence?
- How did you decide whether to use an exclamation mark or a period?
- How did you change your voice when you read the sentences with exclamation marks?

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: Remember that every sentence you write needs a punctuation mark at the end. You can use an exclamation mark at the end of sentences to show feelings or surprise, to call attention to something, or to give a command. The exclamation marks will help readers understand how you feel about the things you write about.

If you would like to give students additional practice recognizing and using exclamation marks, have them complete BLM 9.

4. Share

Bring students together. Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 9. Ask students to share what they learned about using exclamation marks.