Periods at the End of Sentences

1. Focus

Explain Periods at the End of Sentences

Say: A sentence is a group of words that contains a complete thought. Statements and commands are two types of sentences.

Write the example text on the board (without periods).

The class made a flip book.
Draw a picture.

Example Text

Say: A statement tells about something or someone. An example of a statement is, “The class made a flip book.” That sentence tells about a class and what they did. Another type of sentence is a command. A command is a sentence that tells someone to do something. An example of a command is, “Draw a picture.” That sentence tells you what to do. We often use command statements when writing procedural text. When we finish writing a complete thought, we place a period at the end. (Insert periods at the ends of the example sentences.) This lets the reader know we are done writing about a specific statement or command. The period tells the reader to pause before reading the next sentence.

Model Using Periods at the End of Sentences

Display the modeling text (without periods) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources, and read it aloud to students.

Step 3: Draw the same picture on the third self-stick note, but make one small change that starts to show the movement.

Modeling Text

Say: Without periods, this text is hard to follow. Each step is a complete thought, so I will put periods at the end of each step. (Insert periods at the end of each step.) Now let’s look at step 1 again. Something is different about this step. I think there is more than one thought here. The first thought is, “Draw a cover for your flip book on the first self-stick note.” I think that “Include a title” is a separate thought. It’s a command telling me to do something new. I need a period after the word note. (Insert a period after note in step 1.) Now the text is clearer and the steps are easier to follow.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Periods at the End of Sentences

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step 4: Continue drawing a new picture on each self-stick note until the movement is completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 5: Color the pictures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 6: Hold the edge of the pad in one hand and flip the pages with your other hand. The figure will appear to move right before your eyes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ask students to work with a partner and tell where the periods should go in the sentences. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

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

Share Sentences with Periods

Invite students to share where the periods go in each sentence. Discuss their responses. Ask the following questions:

- Where did you place periods?
- What did you do to help you figure out where to place periods?
- Why is it important to use a period at the end of a sentence?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: It’s important to remember to use a period at the end of sentences. Periods tell the reader when each thought is complete and to stop for just a second or two before reading the next sentence. Periods make your writing clearer. For example, in procedural texts, sentences make the different steps in the process easier to follow.

If you would like to give students additional practice recognizing and using periods at the end of sentences, have them complete BLM 8.

4. Share

Bring students together. Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 8. Ask students to share what they learned about using periods at the end of sentences.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Help beginning ELs understand where to place periods in sentences. Say the following sentences one at a time and act them out. Then write them on the board or chart paper and ask students where to put each period. Invite students to use a colored marker to make the period at the end of the sentence.

- I can draw a picture
- I can write a title
- I can flip the pages

Intermediate and Advanced

Provide simple sentences to help ELs use periods. For example:

- Draw a picture of a white cat
- I write a story about summer I tell about swimming in the pool
- My sister’s favorite food is mashed potatoes