

# Periods

(Or “full stop” in British English)

## **Rule 1. We use a period at the end of sentences that are statements.**

*A statement is a sentence that states, or tells, something.*

### **Examples:**

I like to eat pizza.

School starts on Wednesday.

The baby's name is Grace.

## **Rule 2. We use a period at the end of sentences that are commands.**

*A command is a sentence that tells someone to do something.*

### **Examples:**

Pick up the blue ball.

Turn left at the next light.

Hand me the pencil.

## **Rule 3. We use a period at the end of sentences that are indirect questions.**

*An indirect question is a question that is said as a statement. It uses a period instead of a question mark.*

### **Examples:**

She asked me why I didn't go to school yesterday.

I wondered why Bob wasn't there.

Tim asked about that book.

## **Rule 4. We use periods in abbreviations, but not in acronyms.**

*An abbreviation is a shortened version of a word or words.*

### **Examples:**

United States of America is abbreviated U.S.A.

Mr. is the abbreviation for Mister.

Rd. is the abbreviation for road.

*An acronym is like an abbreviation, but we say the letters like a word.*

### **Examples:**

NASA is an acronym for “National Aeronautics and Space Administration.”

Scuba is an acronym for “self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.”

Laser is an acronym for “light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation.”

## **Rule 5. We use periods in website addresses.**

### **Example:**

www.dictionary.com

## How to use a period in sentences

1) Do not put a space before a period used to end a sentence.

Correct: The shirt is blue.

Incorrect: The shirt is blue .

2) Do not put one space after the period if it is followed by another sentence.

Correct: I am driving to the city. The city is north of here.

Incorrect: I am driving to the city. The city is north of here.

Incorrect: I am driving to the city.    The city is north of here.

## Why is the period important?

1) If you do not use a period at the end of a sentence, each sentence will run into the next. That would create confusion for the speaker or reader. The period signals the end of a thought.

Example without periods:

I visited my friend in the city she lives with her mom they rent an apartment on    the south side of town we had a nice visit I hope I can return next year

Example with periods:

I visited my friend in the city. She lives with her mom. They rent an apartment on    the south side of town. We had a nice visit. I hope I can return next year.

2) Abbreviations without periods would be random letters placed together without making a word. The period or periods in an abbreviation signal to the reader that it is a shortened form of a word or words.

3) Websites will not work without periods. You must place a period in all correct places for the internet addresses to be correct.