# Punctuation Practice   . ! ?

## Learning Objective

Students will **understand** how punctuation supports expression in reading. Punctuation markers will direct their intonation to emphasize the meaning of text.

## Materials

- Punctuation Practice Samples (Learning Masters [LM] 1–3)

## Activity

1. **Select a Punctuation Practice Sample to model with students.**

2. **Copy the text on a large sheet of chart paper or project the text onto a digital whiteboard. For example, write the alphabet letters shown on LM 1.**

3. **Before presenting the text to the students, premark punctuation beside selected letters. For example, place a question mark (?) to the right of the letter *C*, an exclamation mark (!) to the right of the letter *S*, and a period (.) to the right of the letter *Z*. Add as many or few punctuation marks beside each of the twenty-six letters on the page as you wish.**

4. **During reading, have the students read the letter chorally (together in unison). Read the text again, this time modeling points where punctuation has been added. If introducing punctuation for the first time, you will need to teach the marks of punctuation. Thus, a period (.) indicates a pause before starting to read the next letter, an exclamation point (!) means to raise your voice to show a strong feeling, and a question mark (?) means we pause for a second and our voice goes up at the end.**

5. **Have students practice reading the text again, attending to the punctuation to read with expression. Repeat, reading the passage multiple times.**

## Modifications and Extensions

- Copy and create other premarked passages with punctuation for students to practice reading chorally, individually, or with a partner.

**READING FLUENCY**
*Punctuation Practice*

## LM 1: Punctuation Practice: The Alphabet

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** |
| **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** |
| **I** | **J** | **K** | **L** |
| **M** | **N** | **O** | **P** |
| **Q** | **R** | **S** | **T** |
| **U** | **V** | **W** | **X** |
| **Y** | **Z** | | |

## READING FLUENCY
*Punctuation Practice*

**LM 2: Punctuation Practice: Numbers**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** |
| **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** |
| **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** |
| **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** |
| **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** |

## READING FLUENCY
*Punctuation Practice*

**LM 3: Punctuation Practice: Words**

| No | No | No |
|----|----|----|
| No | No | No |
| No | No | No |
| No | No | No |
| No | No | No |
| No | No | No |