

Question marks and exclamation marks

Punctuation marks that go at the end of a sentence, but they tell us more than a full stop does!

A question mark lets you know that the sentence is a question, and usually needs an answer.

Would you like a cup of tea?

Exclamation marks show excitement, shock or anger.</p>

This tea is too hot!

Exclamation and question marks can also tell you how to read the sentence.

You could sound shocked, or aggressive!

Or maybe inquisitive?

You can also use question marks and exclamation marks together to ask an excited question or to show shock and disbelief.

Where on Earth have you been?! This can be shown as ?! or by using an interrobang: †

Tongue, Jackie Kay looks back nostalgically at the Scottish language:

“shut yer geggie or I’ll gie you the malkie!”

It might not be clear to people from outside Glasgow that this is a threat, but the exclamation mark gives us an idea, by showing that the sentence is to be said with some force.

"Oh where did all my words go – my old words, my lost words?"

At this point Kay uses a question mark to ask herself a question, giving us an insight into her feelings of uncertainty. The question draws attention to her sense of loss, as well as the speed of the change in her identity.

Do you get it now?

See, it’s easy!