

## Punctuation Check



TREND TASK

**Approach:** Station**Level:** Year 4**Focus:** Identifying and correcting punctuation errors.**Resources:** None.**Questions/instructions:**

A lot of punctuation has been left out of this piece of writing — things like full-stops, commas and speech marks. Try to put in the punctuation.

Today I saw something funny a girl and a dinosaur were in a little car they looked very happy together I called my brother and he came running to have a look I haven't seen a dinosaur in a car before he said



		% responses	
		2002 ('98)	
		year 4	
<b>Line 1:</b>	full stop after 'funny'	24	(29)
	capital A for first 'a'	17	(19)
<b>Line 2:</b>	full stop after 'car'	40	(41)
	capital T for 'they'	30	(27)
<b>Line 3:</b>	full stop after 'together'	66	(70)
<b>Line 4:</b>	full stop after 'look'	52	(59)
	open speech marks before 'I'	38	(34)
<b>Line 5:</b>	immediately after 'before' –		
	,"	3	(8)
	",	3	} (25)
	" (no comma)	25	
	full stop after 'said'	76	(78)

		% responses	
		2002 ('98)	
		year 4	
<b>Incorrect punctuation added:</b>	none	24	(34)
	1	21	(20)
	2 or 3	36	(26)
	4 to 36	19	(20)
<b>Total score:</b>	10-12	6	(8)
	8-9	15	(16)
	6-7	23	(27)
	4-5	29	(25)
	2-3	19	(19)
	0-1	8	(5)

**Commentary:**

Only 31 percent of year 4 students earned more than half of the maximum score on this punctuation task. There was very little change overall between 1998 and 2002.