

# Full Stops

A full stop looks like this: .

**It is a round dot written at the end of a sentence.**

★ She shouted loudly.

This is a complete sentence and it ends with a full stop.

When we read, a full stop tells us when to pause briefly. Without the full stops, we would get terribly out of breath when reading aloud! For example, try reading the following passage in which the full stops (and some capital letters) have been left out:

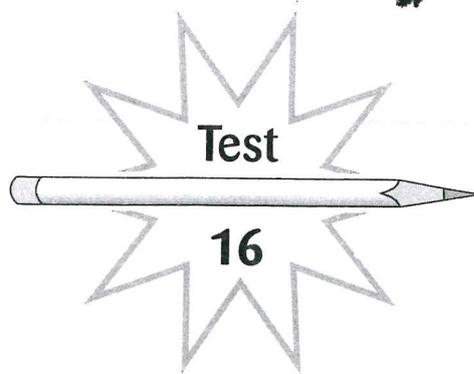
Red Riding Hood wants to take some flowers and cakes to her grandmother she bakes the cakes and picks the flowers on the way Red Riding Hood is spotted by the big bad wolf he decides to run to Grandma's home ahead of Red Riding Hood when Red Riding Hood arrives the big bad wolf is tucked up in Grandma's bed

Hard work, isn't it? Not only is it hard to read so many words without stopping for breath, but it is also difficult to make sense of what is happening. Now try again, taking a short pause when you see a full stop.

Red Riding Hood wants to take some flowers and cakes to her grandmother. She bakes the cakes and picks the flowers. On the way, Red Riding Hood is spotted by the big bad wolf. He decides to run to Grandma's home ahead of Red Riding Hood. When Red Riding Hood arrives, the big bad wolf is tucked up in Grandma's bed.



Much easier! This is why we use full stops.



**1. The computer has made an error and this piece of text has not been punctuated. The vertical lines separate the sentences. Can you rewrite the passage, beginning each sentence with a capital letter and ending with a full stop?**

peter wanted a bike | he wanted to buy the one in the shop | he didn't have enough money | he decided to ask his dad | his dad told him he could buy it on his birthday |

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**2. Now try this one. Separate the sentences with a vertical line. Then write the new passage underneath.**

sally looked for her cat she couldn't find it anywhere suddenly she saw the tip of a ginger tail behind a plant pot she crept up to the pot it wasn't her cat it was a kitten then she saw a pair of ears sticking out from under the table it was her cat Ginger

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