

Guess My Punctuation: Fluency Game

Goal: The student can read a sentence with the appropriate expression based on punctuation.

Note to Teacher: Many teachers find that practicing Reader's Theatre and Burst News takes up the full instructional time. Games are an important part of Burst, but please exercise your own judgment about whether spending more time practicing the play and the news scripts or playing the game is right for your group.

In a Nutshell: (5 minutes) To play this game, a student reads.

MATERIALS

Guess My Punctuation cards.

PREPARE

- Write the names of the students on the board.
- Keep score on the board.

MODEL

1 Explain the Rules of the Game

Have the students sit in a circle. Stack the Guess My Punctuation cards face down in the center of the circle.



We are going to play a game called Guess My Punctuation. When it is your turn, you will pick up a card and read it aloud. You need to make sure you use the appropriate expression, because the rest of us will try to guess if your sentence is a statement, a question, or an exclamation. Remember your voice goes up, or gets higher, at the end of a question. It sounds excited when you read an exclamation. When you read a statement, you should sound as though you are saying something of which you are sure. You should not sound like you don't believe what you are saying.



When it is not your turn to read, you should listen quietly. If you think you know whether the sentence is a question, an exclamation, or a statement based on your friend's reading, raise your hand.



I will call on one of you to guess the punctuation. Remember, questions end with a question mark, exclamations end with an exclamation point, and statements end with a period. If you guess correctly, you will get one point and the reader will get two points. If you do not guess correctly, neither you nor the reader will get any points. I will keep track of the points. On the board, keep track of the points by entering the score for each student next to his or her name.



The player with the most points at the end wins, so it's important to be a good reader and a good listener.

2 Model How to Play the Game

If students are not yet comfortable with this game, model how to play for the group.

PRACTICE

3 Play the Game

Play several rounds of the game so each player participates several times. The game ends when students have had an equal number of turns to read. Collect the game cards to use again.

**Can we go
to the zoo?**

**When does
the movie
start?**

**How much does
that cost?**

**What is
his name?**

**Who wants
an ice cream
cone?**

**Where is
the park?**

**What did
you say?**

**Why can't
I come?**

**Did you eat
the last piece
of pie?**

**Where is
my backpack?**

**Do I
have to go?**

**Aren't you ready
for school?**

**Will you
try out
for the play?**

**Would you
like to help?**

**Won't you
sit down?**

**It's time
to go?**

**Is there
school
tomorrow?**

**I don't want
to go to bed!**

Stand up!

**She loves
her mom!**

That's cool!

**I can't wait to
go to school!**

**That is my
favorite movie!**

**The dentist
gave me a red
toothbrush!**

**We got
to go to
the zoo!**

**I hate
wearing
mittens!**

**I'm afraid
of dogs!**

I can't swim!

Watch out!

**I can't believe
that!**

**The play was
terrific!**

Come here!

**Reading is
fun!**

**The food went
flying all over
the kitchen!**

**We went to
the park
yesterday.**

**I had pizza
for dinner.**

**She went to
bed at 8:00.**

**We left for
school in the
morning.**

**He took the bus
to the store.**

**I left my books
at home.**

**I would like a
glass of water,
please.**

**Her name
is Suzie.**

**I'd like to
go home now.**

**We played
basketball after
school.**

**The doctor
measured
my height and
weight.**

**The snowman
melted away.**

**The sand
felt warm under
his toes.**

**The painting
was mostly
blue.**

**The sky
looked dark
and cloudy.**