

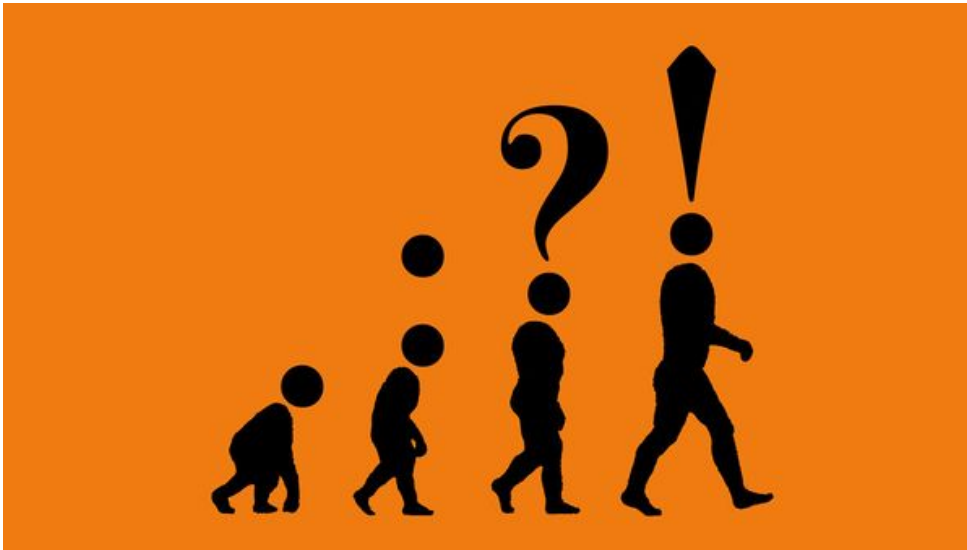
Punctuation matters more than you think

标点，比你想象的更重要

A new book offers a dashing history of writers' marks

一本新书讲述标点符号的生动历史

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橙色背景上，逐渐直立的人形剪影与句点、问号和感叹号并置。

难度 67 / 100

建议60–80分钟；选做作文另计。

适用读者：能阅读一般英语新闻，希望读准长句、搭配与作者语气的学习者。

入门准备：能辨认基本主谓结构和常见从句，愿意结合语境查词。

About this lesson 本课导读

一篇书评把句号、逗号和破折号写成影响阅读的角色。本文既追溯标点如何帮助断句，也展示书评作者怎样用标点相关的双关表达赞赏和保留。精读时要同时读句子的结构与文字游戏。

- 解释标点如何影响句意和朗读
- 拆解隐含条件、分词结果与插入语
- 辨认dashing、pointed与a dash flat的双关
- 用让步结构写出有依据的书评判断

Before you read 读前思考

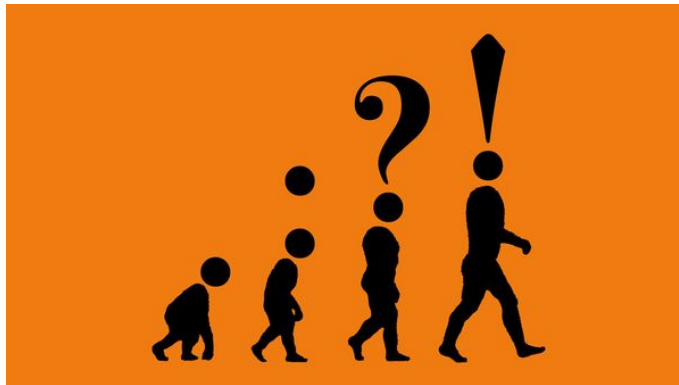
Can punctuation change meaning without changing the words? Give a simple example.

拓展例句与练习情境用于说明用法。

书末答案 (p.11)

Text 课文

[P01] “IN THE BEGINNING was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God.” Yet in the beginning there was no punctuation.^{V01} In early Latin manuscripts, the Bible was written in scriptura continua, without spaces or marks between words.^{V02} This was a problem: pause at the wrong point, and you could sever God from “the word”, throwing Christ’s divinity into doubt.^{V03V04V05K01} So in the Middle Ages, Christian scholars set about punctuating the holy book, using symbols and sub-clauses as “lanterns to words” to guide preachers.^{V06V07}



橙色背景上，逐渐直立的人形剪影与句点、问号和感叹号并置。

[P02] “The history of punctuation is the history of humanity,” argues Florence Hazrat, a researcher, in a rollicking new book.^{V08} Often dismissed as “the invisible ushers of the sentence”, dots and dashes have shaped religious texts, legal documents, and literature.^{V09V10K02} “On the Mark”, like punctuation itself, makes readers pause for thought, showing how full stops have displeased and commas caused controversy.^{V11V12}

[P03] This pointed history starts in the ancient world.^{V13} Cicero, like other Roman scholars, thought punctuation was amateurish.^{V14} For skilled orators, half the fun was in interpreting obscure writing.^{V15} Ms Hazrat races across time—offering digressions about how, for instance, Irish monks in the eighth century first put spaces between words—before reaching the “punctuation boom” of the Renaissance.^{V16V17K03} Scholars in Italy invented curved commas, semicolons and (do not forget) parentheses.^{V18V19} The printing press helped spread and standardise these signs, and by around 1600 all the major marks were in place.^{V20}

[P04] “On the Mark” is crammed with fascinating facts.^{V21} Take the exclamation mark, about which Ms Hazrat wrote a previous book.^{V22} Invented by an Italian poet in the 1360s to signal “admiration and wonder”, by the 19th century it had become a sign of emotion and even hysteria.^{V23K04} Editors added them to old texts, including Shakespeare’s “Antony and Cleopatra”. (In the First Folio, the play had only 16 exclamation marks, but modern versions contain about 200, most of them clustered in Cleopatra’s shouty-sounding speeches.)^{V24K05} In the 20th century the exclamation mark fell into “soundless cymbal-crashing”, as Theodor Adorno, a German philosopher, put it. Nazi propagandists aggressively attached clusters of them to the end of assertions!!!^{V25}

[P05] Writers have long squabbled over scribbles.^{V26} Emily Dickinson felt “defeated” when an

editor cut a dash; Charles Baudelaire told his proofreader “I absolutely want to keep this
 30 comma.”^{V27} Mark Twain even threatened to have a proofreader shot who dared change his
 punctuation.^{K06} This is a delightful tale of marks’ evolution, even if Ms Hazrat’s own attempts
 to use them inventively fall a dash flat.^{V28}

New words and expressions 生词和短语

按原文出现顺序排列；*为优先练习表达。

V01 · P01 punctuation

/ˌpʌŋktʃuˈeɪʃən/ n. 标点；标点用法

通常为不可数名词；具体某一符号可以说 a punctuation mark。

V02 · P01 manuscript

/ˈmænjʊskript/ n. 手稿；抄本

早期语境指手写文本，不是现代印刷书的同义词。

V03 · P01 sever A from B*

/ˈsevə/ v. phr. 把A与B分离

此处指错误断句让概念关系改变，并非物理切割。

V04 · P01 throw into doubt*

/θrəʊ ˌɪntə ˈdaʊt/ phr. 使受到怀疑

into 描述进入某种状态；throwing ... 为前述误读引起的后果。

V05 · P01 divinity

/dɪˈvɪnəti/ n. 神性

本文是宗教文本中基督的神性问题，不能译作一般名望或品德高尚。

V06 · P01 set about*

/set əˈbaʊt/ phr. v. 着手做

about 为介词，后接 punctuating，不写 set about to punctuate。

They set about repairing the damaged shelves.

他们着手修理损坏的书架。

V07 · P01 preacher

/ˈpri:tʃə/ n. 传道者；讲道者

原文以朗读与释义的需要解释标点的作用。

V08 · P02 rollicking

/ˈrɒlɪkɪŋ/ adj. 活泼有趣的；欢乐热闹的

评价新书读起来有趣，先确立书评的总体正面语气。

V09 · P02 dismiss as*

/dɪsˈmɪs æz/ v. phr. 以...为由轻视或不予重视

dismissed as invisible ushers 不是把标点解雇，而是觉得它们只承担不起眼的辅助作用。

V10 · P02 usher

/ʌʃə/ n. 引座员；引导员

用服务人员比喻标点引导阅读的位置与节奏。invisible 说作用容易被忽视。

V11 · P02 full stop

/fʊl ˈstɒp/ n. 句号

英式用语，对应美式 period；本文同句让标点成为引发情绪的角色。

V12 · P02 controversy

/ˈkɒntreɪvɜːsi/ n. 争论；争议

caused controversy 是引发争议，不只是让某人暂时不高兴。

V13 · P03 pointed*

/ˈpɔɪntɪd/ adj. 尖锐的；有针对性的

既可评价叙述有锋芒，又与point和标点主题呼应，译文很难同时保留两层。

V14 · P03 amateurish

/æməˈteəriʃ/ adj. 不熟练的；业余水准的

报道古罗马学者的判断，不代表书评作者赞成取消现代标点。

V15 · P03 orator

/ˈɒrətə/ n. 演说家

skilled orators 的朗读解释能力与前文帮助preachers的需求形成趣味对照。

V16 · P03 digression

/daɪˈɡreɪʃən/ n. 离题话；插叙

讲大历史时短暂转向有趣细节。破折号本身把这一插叙视觉化。

V17 · P03 Renaissance

/ˈrɪneɪsəns/ n. 文艺复兴

本篇关注该时期符号创制与印刷传播，不必背诵完整历史分期。

V18 · P03 semicolon

/semiˈkəʊlən/ n. 分号

符号为；，不是冒号：。与 comma、parentheses 一起说明主要符号的形成。

V19 · P03 parentheses

/pəˈrenθəsiːz/ n. (复数) 圆括号；括注

单数 parenthesis；原句把 do not forget 放入括号，边说边示范。

V20 · P03 standardise*

/ˈstændədaɪz/ v. 使标准化；统一

印刷不仅传播符号，也让用法与外形更一致；原文用英式 -ise。

V21 · P04 be crammed with*

/bi kræmd wɪð/ phr. 充满；塞满

书装满趣味事实，是对信息丰富的积极评价，不是纸张排印拥挤的技术诊断。

The guidebook is crammed with practical details.

这本指南充满实用细节。

V22 · P04 exclamation mark

/ˌekskləˈmeɪʃən mɑ:k/ n. 感叹号

本段以它为个案追踪用途从赞叹到情绪、夸张强调的变化。

V23 · P04 hysteria

/hɪˈstɪəriə/ n. 歇斯底里；强烈失控的情绪

本文谈符号带出的语气，不是在为某个作者作医学诊断。

V24 · P04 cluster*

/ˈklʌstə/ v./n. 聚集；成串的一组

clustered in ... 写感叹号集中在某些台词；后面的 clusters of them 也指成串符号。

V25 · P04 assertion

/əˈsɜːʃən/ n. 断言；肯定陈述

强烈标点可以强化口气，却不会自动增加断言的证据。

V26 · P05 squabble

/ˈskwɒbəl/ v. 为琐事争吵

与 scribbles 的开头音呼应，轻松地概括作家对细小符号的认真争执。

V27 · P05 proofreader

/ˈpruːfriːdə/ n. 校对员

检查文本错误的人。本文展示作者与校对者对标点是否可改的冲突。

V28 · P05 fall flat*

/fɔːl flæt/ phr. 未达效果；不够有趣

fall a dash flat 插入 a dash（一点点），又呼应破折号 dash。批评是局部保留，未推翻整本书的价值。

The joke fell flat because nobody understood the reference.

没人懂其中的暗指，所以这个笑话没有奏效。

Notes on the text 课文注释

1 同样的词，停顿为何能改变关系？

[P01]

开头先借宗教文本说明断句的重要性。连续书写没有现代读者熟悉的空格和标点，朗读者必须决定在哪里停顿、哪些词属于同一语意单位。pause at the wrong point 把一个抽象问题变成具体动作。

lanterns to words 将符号比作照明工具：标点帮助读者看见结构。这里是在解释书评如何引入主题，不要求读者接受某一宗教主张；关键是停顿可能改变原句中概念之间的关系。

2 隐形引座员，为何能塑造文本？

[P02]

ushers 平时负责引导人就座，标点则引导读者组织句子。Often dismissed ... 与 have shaped 构成反差：被认为不起眼，却有实质影响。宗教、法律、文学的并列把意义从第一段个案扩展到不同文本。

makes readers pause for thought 同时写阅读体验与标点功能。full stops have displeased and commas caused controversy 省略第二个 have，让句子紧凑；点与逗号被写成会引发人类情绪的角色。

3 历史推进，也是标点的现场示范

[P03]

This pointed history 中 pointed 既可表示尖锐，也唤起“点”的视觉联想。races across time 概括作者快速跨越时代的写法；破折号中的 digressions 正好像叙事的临时岔路。

意大利学者创造符号之后，印刷负责传播与统一，两项作用不能混为“印刷机一次发明了全部标点”。(do not forget) 用括号把“别忘了括号”插进句子，在解释标点时展示标点。历史细节在本课按书评的叙述归属理解。

4 一枚感叹号，怎样从赞叹走向喧闹？

[P04]

本段先说书中事实丰富，再用 Take ... 引入感叹号这一例子。时间从14世纪到19世纪，再到20世纪；变的是符号承载的情绪和使用强度，不是说它在每个阶段都完全失去了旧用途。

16与约200比较的是同一戏剧在不同版本中的感叹号数量。most of them 指后面的约200个，而非所有莎士比亚作品。soundless cymbal-crashing 把视觉符号写成没有真实声音的铙钹巨响；末尾!!!又让读者当场看到这种过量强调。

5 总体喜欢，局部批评：最后一句怎样落笔？

[P05]

狄金森、波德莱尔和吐温的例子说明：对作者而言，标点不仅是机械规则，还涉及语气、节奏和作品控制。squabbled over scribbles 用相近的开头音，轻松描绘对细小笔画的争执。

书评最后明确说 delightful，随后 even if 引出保留：书作者自己的创新用法并非总有效。fall a dash flat 把“有点平淡”与破折号 dash 合在一起；副标题 dashing history 也在“生动有劲”之外照应 dash。不能只摘最后三个词就说评论者全盘否定本书。

Special difficulties 难点辨析**1 dash、hyphen 与 a dash of 不可混用**

[P03 / P05]

dash 通常指破折号，常用于插入或强调；hyphen 是连接单词成分的连字符，如 shouty-sounding。a dash of 表少量；结尾 a dash 插在 fall flat 之间，把数量用法与标点名称叠在一起。

The soup needs a dash of pepper.

这汤需要一点胡椒。

The room—small but bright—was perfect for reading.

这个房间虽小却明亮，很适合阅读。

2 even if 在书评中不一定是纯粹假设

[P05]

这里 even if 接的是评论者对该书实际写法的让步评语，可译成“尽管”。它保留的主判断是整段历史叙述令人愉快，而非“只有当创新失败时书才好”。理解让步关系要同时读前后两个评价对象。

Background 背景与延伸**1 标点既组织意思，也指示阅读节奏**

[P01 / P02 / P04]

逗号、括号和破折号可以把补充信息从主线中分出；句号决定一个陈述在哪里结束；感叹号能改变同一句话的表达强度。它们不只是装饰，也不是所有场合都只有一个机械答案。

比较原创例句“Let's eat, Sam.”与“Let's eat Sam.”：前句是招呼Sam吃饭，后句却把Sam放到eat的宾语位置。词语顺序相同，一个逗号已改变句法关系。这正呼应开头关于停顿影响解释的主题。

Key structures 关键句型

K01 · P01 祈使句 + and : 隐含条件与结果分词

This was a problem: pause at the wrong point, and you could sever God from “the word”, throwing Christ’s divinity into doubt.

这带来了问题：若在错误的位置停顿，就可能把神与“道”分开，从而使基督的神性受到质疑。

pause at the wrong point, and you could ... 可展开为 If you pause at the wrong point, you could ...。前面的祈使形式在这里提出条件，不是在真的鼓励错误停顿。

throwing Christ’s divinity into doubt 为分词结果，说明前述误分关系会带来的后果。into doubt 是进入被质疑的状态；could 表可能，不是每次停顿都必然产生相同结论。

Leave out a key detail, and you could confuse the reader, making the instructions harder to follow.

漏掉关键细节，就可能使读者困惑，让说明更难遵循。

K02 · P02 过去分词短语前置：被忽视的是标点

Often dismissed as “the invisible ushers of the sentence”, dots and dashes have shaped religious texts, legal documents, and literature.

句点和破折号常被视为“句子里隐形的引座员”而不受重视，却塑造了宗教文本、法律文书和文学作品。

Often dismissed as ... 是过去分词短语，逻辑主语为 dots and dashes，它们承受 dismiss 的动作。语义上可展开为 Although they are often dismissed as ...，表示虽然常被轻视。

主句 have shaped 表示过去以来的影响延续至今。把开头误接到作者，就会读成“被解雇的研究者”；看分词逻辑主语可避免这个错误。

Often treated as a minor detail, the heading can change how readers interpret a page.

标题常被当成小细节，却可能改变读者对页面的理解。

K03 · P03 破折号内的插入与 before doing

Ms Hazrat races across time—offering digressions about how, for instance, Irish monks in the eighth century first put spaces between words—before reaching the “punctuation boom” of the Renaissance.

Hazrat女士飞快地穿越历史，穿插一些题外话，例如8世纪爱尔兰修士如何首次在单词之间加入空格，然后讲到文艺复兴时期的“标点繁荣”。

主干是 Ms Hazrat races across time before reaching the boom。破折号包住 offering digressions ...，补充如何跨越历史；逻辑主语仍是书作者。

about 后接 how ... first put spaces ...，for instance 又插在其中举例。把两层插入暂时移开，再恢复“她插讲什么故事”，就能保持主线。before 为介词时后接 reaching。

The guide moved through the museum—offering stories about how, for example, the tools were made—before reaching the final room.

导游一路穿过博物馆，中途讲解诸如工具如何制作的故事，最后来到末厅。

K04 · P04 Invented ... by ... 与 had become

Invented by an Italian poet in the 1360s to signal “admiration and wonder”, by the 19th century it had become a sign of emotion and even hysteria.

它由一位意大利诗人在14世纪60年代创造，用以表示“赞叹与惊奇”；到了19世纪，它已成为情绪乃至歇斯底里的标志。

Invented by an Italian poet ... 修饰主句的 it，即感叹号。to signal ... 说明最初目的；第一个 by 引出创造者。

by the 19th century 中 by 则表示时间截止点，主句 had become 用过去完成时，说明到那个历史时点变化已经发生。一个 by 接人，一个 by 接时间，功能不同。

Designed by a local engineer in the 1880s, by 1900 the machine had become common in small workshops.

这台机器由当地工程师在19世纪80年代设计，到1900年已在小工坊中普及。

K05 · P04 most of them + 过去分词：独立主格补充

(In the First Folio, the play had only 16 exclamation marks, but modern versions contain about 200, most of them clustered in Cleopatra’s shouty-sounding speeches.)

在《第一对开本》中，这部剧只有16个感叹号，现代版本却大约有200个，其中大多数集中在克莉奥佩特拉那些听起来像喊叫的台词中。

but 并列比较早期版本与现代版本。most of them clustered ... 没有独立限定动词，可看作以名词短语加过去分词构成的独立主格，补充现代版本中多数感叹号的分布。

them 回指约200个感叹号；clustered 表集中，不是让前面的 play 成为被聚集对象。shouty-sounding 说明台词听起来像喊叫，并非原文提供了演员实际音量测量。

The shelf held about fifty books, most of them arranged by subject.

书架上约有五十本书，多数按主题排列。

K06 · P05 have somebody done 与后置的 who 从句

Mark Twain even threatened to have a proofreader shot who dared change his punctuation.

马克·吐温甚至曾威胁，要把胆敢改动他标点的校对员枪毙。

have a proofreader shot 是 have + 宾语 + 过去分词，意为让某人遭受被枪击这一动作。与 have a proofreader check the text 中让校对员执行动作不同。

who dared change his punctuation 修饰 proofreader，虽放在 shot 后，指的仍是胆敢改动标点的人。这里转述夸张的历史威胁，不是书评作者发出的要求。

The manager arranged to have a document checked that contained several uncertain figures.

经理安排核查一份含有多处不确定数字的文件。

Exercises 练习与写作

Listening 听力（选做）

选做：听录音，记录感叹号数量比较的两组数字。

02 How many exclamation marks are contrasted in the two versions of the play?

Comprehension 理解

按书评的叙述和评价回答。

- 03 Why does the article begin with a text written without spaces or punctuation?
- 04 What does the comparison with invisible ushers suggest?
- 05 Did the printing press invent all the marks, according to the article?
- 06 What makes soundless cymbal-crashing a striking description?
- 07 Is the final judgement entirely positive, entirely negative, or qualified? Explain.

Words in use 词汇

用词库完成改写或填空，每项一次。

词库：set about / crammed with / fall flat / throw into doubt

- 08 Use throw into doubt: “New evidence may make us question the earlier explanation.”
- 09 After the meeting, they ____ planning the exhibition.
- 10 The small museum is ____ unusual objects.
- 11 Without a clear ending, the story may ____.

Key structures 句型

用结构解释意思，再做改写。

- 12 Rewrite with if: “Pause in the wrong place, and you could change the meaning.”
- 13 In “Often ignored, the comma can be important”, what is ignored?
- 14 Remove the inserted material from P3’s long sentence to identify its main route through time.

15 Use the past perfect: “By 1900, the sign ____ (become) common.”

16 Expand: “The room contained ten chairs, most of them made of wood.”

17 Compare “have the editor check the text” with “have the text checked”. Who performs the checking in the first, and what receives it in the second?

Summary writing 摘要

用65–85词说明标点作用、历史例子与书评立场。

18 Write a 65–85-word summary.

Composition 作文 (选做)

选做：用90–110词评论一本书、一场展览或一篇文章，写出总体判断和一项具体保留。

19 Write a 90–110-word review with one clear reservation.

Reference translation 参考译文

P01 “太初有道，道与神同在，道就是神。”然而，最初并没有标点。早期拉丁文手稿中的《圣经》采用连续书写，单词之间既无空格，也无符号。这带来了问题：若在错误的位置停顿，就可能把神与“道”分开，从而使基督的神性受到质疑。因此，中世纪的基督教学者开始给这部经典加上标点，用符号和分句充当“照亮词语的灯”，引导传道者朗读。

P02 研究者Florence Hazrat在一本活泼有趣的新书中提出：“标点的历史就是人类的历史。”句点和破折号常被视为“句子里隐形的引座员”而不受重视，却塑造了宗教文本、法律文书和文学作品。《On the Mark》像标点本身一样，让读者停下来思考，展示句号如何惹人不快、逗号又如何引发争论。

P03 这段颇有锋芒的历史从古代开始。西塞罗和其他罗马学者一样，认为使用标点显得不够专业。对熟练的演说家来说，一半的乐趣就在于解读晦涩的文字。Hazrat女士飞快地穿越历史，穿插一些题外话，例如8世纪爱尔兰修士如何首次在单词之间加入空格，然后讲到文艺复兴时期的“标点繁荣”。意大利学者创造了弯曲的逗号、分号，以及——别忘了——括号。印刷机帮助传播这些符号，并使其趋于统一；到1600年前后，所有主要标点都已基本到位。

P04 《On the Mark》装满了引人入胜的知识。就拿感叹号来说，Hazrat女士此前已写过一本关于它的书。它由一位意大利诗人在14世纪60年代创造，用以表示“赞叹与惊奇”；到了19世纪，它已成为情绪乃至歇斯底里的标志。编辑们把感叹号加进旧文本，其中包括莎士比亚的《安东尼与克莉奥佩特拉》。在《第一对开本》中，这部剧只有16个感叹号，现代版本却大约有200个，其中大多数集中在克莉奥佩特拉那些听起来像喊叫的台词中。到了20世纪，感叹号变成了德国哲学家狄奥多·阿多诺所说的“无声的铙钹碰撞”。纳粹宣传者在断言末尾气势汹汹地堆上成串的感叹号！！

P05 作家们长期以来一直为这些笔画争吵。编辑删掉一个破折号，会让艾米莉·狄金森感到“挫败”；夏尔·波德莱尔则对校对员说：“我绝对要保留这个逗号。”马克·吐温甚至曾威胁，要把胆敢改动他标点的校对员枪毙。这是一个令人愉快的标点演变故事，尽管Hazrat女士自己那些力求新颖的标点用法，效果稍稍平淡了一点。

Reference answers 参考答案与解析

开放题不要求与参考答案逐字一致；先检查信息和意思，再修改表达。

Before you read 读前思考

01 读前思考

Yes. “Let’s eat, Sam.” addresses Sam, while “Let’s eat Sam.” makes Sam the object of eat. 能说明结构或语气差异即可。只说标点使页面好看，还没回答意思如何改变。

Listening 听力

02

Sixteen in the First Folio and about two hundred in modern versions.
about 应保留；两个数字都指感叹号。

Comprehension 理解

03

It provides a concrete example of how pauses and divisions can affect interpretation.
开头用个案引出标点意义，不是要读者复述教义。

04

Punctuation guides readers through a sentence even when its work is easy to overlook.
须同时说引导作用与容易被忽视。

05

No. The article credits scholars with inventing signs and printing with helping spread and standardise them.
区分创制和传播统一。

06

It gives a visual mark the imagined loudness of crashing cymbals even though the page makes no sound.
指出无声与巨响的张力。

07

It is qualified and mainly positive: the history is called delightful, but some of the author’s inventive punctuation is judged less successful.
两个评价对象不同；even if 保留总体赞赏。

Words in use 词汇

08

New evidence may throw the earlier explanation into doubt.
宾语插在 throw 与 into doubt 之间，不能把整个短语机械放在宾语前。

09

set about
过去式仍为set；about后用动名词。

10

crammed with

be crammed with 表充满。

11

fall flat

may后用原形，表示效果不佳。

Key structures 句型

12

If you pause in the wrong place, you could change the meaning.

可接受表达：

- You could change the meaning if you pause in the wrong place.

条件关系；could保留可能性。

13

The comma.

分词短语的逻辑主语与主句一致。

14

Ms Hazrat races across time before reaching the punctuation boom of the Renaissance.

可接受表达：

- Ms Hazrat races across time before reaching the “punctuation boom” of the Renaissance.

插入故事补充主线，不是主句谓语。

15

had become

by + 过去截止点，与过去完成时配合。

16

The room contained ten chairs, and most of them were made of wood.

可接受表达：

- The room contained ten chairs, most of which were made of wood.

and most of them were ... 补出完整并列分句；most of which were ... 则用关系从句补充说明。两种形式都要有限定动词 were。

17

The editor checks in the first; the text receives the checking in the second.

原形check表宾语执行动作，过去分词checked表宾语承受动作。

Summary writing 摘要**18**

Florence Hazrat's book presents punctuation as an important part of cultural history. The review explains how marks guide interpretation, traces their spread and standardisation, and uses the exclamation mark to show changes in emotional force. Examples of writers resisting editorial changes reveal that small signs can matter deeply. The reviewer enjoys the story but finds some of Hazrat's own inventive uses less effective, expressing this reservation through a pun on the word dash.

应说明书评的总体评价和保留。只列历史年代会漏掉作者的立场和文字游戏。

Composition 作文**19**

The small exhibition offered an engaging history of everyday objects. Its strongest feature was the pairing of familiar tools with explanations of how people once used them. A simple display about handwriting made me pause for thought: even a tiny change in a tool could affect the page. Some labels, however, were crammed with details that were difficult to absorb while standing in a crowded room. Shorter explanations would have helped. Even if the presentation occasionally felt too busy, the exhibition succeeded in making ordinary objects worth a second look. I left with questions I wanted to explore further.

总体判断须有例子支撑，保留意见应指向具体问题。even if/although能兼容赞赏和局部批评，不必把评价强行归成全好或全坏。