

Chapter 2

What Is Your Punctuation Mark?

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I use five English punctuation marks—the exclamation point, the dash, the period, the question mark, and the asterisk—as a comparative illustration to teach you five different personality types. It’s meaningful, easy to understand, and fun to relate to this system. It will stick with you for the rest of your life.

In the English language, punctuation marks are used to end or express special emphasis in a sentence. Punctuation is the use of points or marks in written or printed matter to indicate separation of the words in sentence clauses or phrases. They aid our comprehension of the meaning of the grammatical relationship of the words. They help us make sense of all written material.

Likewise, when used to teach personality, punctuation marks can help us make sense of all personality expression in life. Some people are like an exclamation point because they are emphatic and urgent. Some are like the dash because they connect in their relationships with others. Some are like the question mark because they question all things. Some are like the period because they express most details. Some are like the asterisk because they bring special attention or notoriety to something.

All of us have personalities that punctuate in a way that significantly divides, marks, or separates our behavior from others. Consider these differences as you read the following personality type descriptions.

“It is easy to explain simple things so they seem to be complex... to explain complex things so they seem easy—that is the challenge!”

– anonymous