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# Is the Period Dead?

Is the Period Dead?

Has texting, social media, and informal communication rendered the period obsolete? Many Gen Z'ers see periods as rude—sometimes even aggressive—suggesting the writer is too serious. Yet, others argue the period isn't going anywhere. According to *The New York Times*, periods remain essential in news articles, academic writing, books, and other formal contexts where clarity is key. In casual texting, however, language tends to be more fluid and conversational, making punctuation feel unnecessary.

But what happens when language becomes more complex? The period helps signal when one idea ends and another begins. Without it, writing can quickly become a jumble of words.

Consider the opening of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* without periods:

**“It was a pleasure to burn it was a special pleasure to see things eaten to see things blackened and changed with the brass nozzle in his fists with this great python spitting its venomous kerosene upon the world the blood pounded in his head and his hands were the hands of some amazing conductor”**

Without punctuation, Bradbury's vivid descriptions blur into chaos. With periods, the structure and meaning become clear.

**“It was a pleasure to burn. It was a special pleasure to see things eaten, to see things blackened and changed. With the brass nozzle in his fists, with this great python spitting its venomous kerosene upon the world, the blood pounded in his head, and his hands were the hands of some amazing conductor...”**

**Your Prompt: Predict the Future of the Period**

- Will the idea of the period as “rude” become the norm, even in formal writing?
- Could the period disappear entirely?
- Consider a *New York Times* article without periods—if it's still understandable, is this the future of journalism?
- Or will the period stand firm, remaining a staple of the English language?

Perhaps you have another prediction for the fate of the period. Whatever your take, your mission is this: **Predict the future of the period.**

A series of horizontal lines for writing, consisting of 28 evenly spaced lines across the page.

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