

Quote Punctuation Sort

Track where the period belongs in an MLA quotation.

10.LU.2.B "Apply a style manual, such as that of the Modern Language Association (MLA) or the American Psychological Association (APA), to apply rules for punctuation and formatting of direct quotations in writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT MLA PUNCTUATION

For a short direct quotation with an MLA parenthetical citation, place the closing quotation mark first, then the citation, then the period.

Lena writes, "The harbor lights flickered at dusk" (Nguyen 42).

INCORRECT MLA PUNCTUATION

This placement puts the period before the citation. In MLA, the citation must come before the sentence-ending period.

Lena writes, "The harbor lights flickered at dusk." (Nguyen 42)

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle CORRECT or INCORRECT for each item, then choose two items and explain how the period placement helped you sort them.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Jordan notes, "Wind rattled the empty greenhouse" (Soto 27). | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 2. The guide explains, "The cave stays cool all year." (Hale 9) | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 3. "The sculpture changed color in rain." (Bell 64) | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 4. Priya observes, "Every seed needs room to grow" (Cole 15). | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 5. The reporter writes, "The bridge reopened at sunrise" (Diaz 31). | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 6. "Our team practiced until dark." (Moore 22) | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 7. The narrator admits, "I missed the last train" (Park 6). | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 8. Eli states, "The map was drawn by hand" (Young 48). | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new short quotation with a parenthetical citation for each category: one CORRECT example and one INCORRECT example.

CORRECT _____

INCORRECT _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences that introduce the same quotation in different ways, one with the author's name in the sentence and one without it, using correct MLA punctuation in both.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Jordan notes, "Wind rattled the empty greenhouse" (Soto 27).	CORRECT	The period appears after the parenthetical citation.
2	The guide explains, "The cave stays cool all year." (Hale 9)	INCORRECT	The period appears before the parenthetical citation.
3	"The sculpture changed color in rain." (Bell 64)	INCORRECT	The period appears before the parenthetical citation.
4	Priya observes, "Every seed needs room to grow" (Cole 15).	CORRECT	The period appears after the parenthetical citation.
5	The reporter writes, "The bridge reopened at sunrise" (Diaz 31).	CORRECT	The period appears after the parenthetical citation.
6	"Our team practiced until dark." (Moore 22)	INCORRECT	The period appears before the parenthetical citation.
7	The narrator admits, "I missed the last train" (Park 6).	CORRECT	The period appears after the parenthetical citation.
8	Eli states, "The map was drawn by hand" (Young 48).	CORRECT	The period appears after the parenthetical citation.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CORRECT:** The biographer reports, "The inventor tested each design twice" (Allen 53).
- **INCORRECT:** The biographer reports, "The inventor tested each design twice." (Allen 53)

Challenge: Allen explains, "The river cut a new channel" (53). "The river cut a new channel" (Allen 53).

Items 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8 are CORRECT. Items 2, 3, and 6 are INCORRECT; accept PROVE IT responses that identify whether the period comes before or after the parenthetical citation.