

Human Punctuation

Purpose

To practice writing mechanics.

Competencies

The learner will communicate in appropriate written English in a variety of personal, social, and academic contexts.

Materials Provided

cotton bolls
questions and answer key for transparency

Materials Needed

Copy of Text, Cotton: Then and Now by Karen Bates Willing
ISBN 0-9641820-3-3

Teaching Strategy

1. Read orally to the class Cotton: Then and Now . Discuss the story.
2. Tell the class that you need help proofreading several sentences.
3. Divide the class into equally numbered groups. Groups should have no less than 5 students, but no more than 8 students.
4. Explain to the groups that their task is to provide the correct ending punctuation for each sentence you will display. This is to be done as a group with all members of the group participating. You may wish to copy the sentences onto a transparency for classroom display or you may write them on the chalkboard or chart.
5. When a sentence is displayed the group should work together to physically form the shape of the correct punctuation. (period, question mark, exclamation point)
6. Read orally and display each sentence. Students race to form the proper punctuation mark for each sentence.

Sentences for Human Punctuation

1. But cotton's what I know best, so I will tell you how they made it in great-grandma's day and how they make it now
2. When's planting time
3. It starts with one small cotton seed, that's planted in the ground
4. A weevil What a funny word
5. Of all the jobs we've learned about which is your favorite one

Sentences for Human Punctuation (Answer Key)

6. But cotton's what I know best, so I will tell you how they made it in great-grandma's day and how they make it now (.)
7. When's planting time (?)
8. It starts with one small cotton seed, that's planted in the ground (.)
9. A weevil What a funny word (!)
10. Of all the jobs we've learned about which is your favorite one (?)