

YouGov Survey Results

Sample Size: 1712 adults in GB
Fieldwork: 28th - 29th September 2022

	Gender		Age				Social Grade		Region					
Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland	
Weighted sample	1712	832	880	187	714	413	399	976	736	205	575	372	413	147
Unweighted Sample	1712	742	970	169	681	424	438	999	713	161	613	389	400	149
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

A serial comma (also known as an Oxford comma), is a comma used after the second-to-last item in a list of words (examples shown below).

In terms of your own writing preferences, do you prefer such sentences to use or not use a serial comma/Oxford comma?

Prefer to use the serial comma/Oxford comma	25	25	25	33	23	25	26	27	23	32	24	25	24	27
Prefer not to use the serial comma/Oxford comma	56	53	58	43	57	58	55	60	50	52	57	56	53	60
Don't know	19	22	17	23	20	17	19	14	26	16	19	19	23	13

When typing on a computer, do you put one space or two spaces after a full stop between sentences in the same paragraph?

One space	72	76	67	84	72	68	68	71	72	75	72	74	67	70
Two spaces	24	18	29	7	21	29	31	25	22	20	25	21	24	28
Don't know	5	6	3	9	6	3	1	3	6	5	3	5	8	1

If someone is being quoted in writing, do you think punctuation following the quote, but that is not part of the quote, should be included inside the quotation marks, or outside the quotation marks?

Outside the quotation marks "like so".	56	54	57	46	59	58	52	60	49	59	57	54	50	62
Inside the quotation marks "like so."	27	24	29	39	25	26	25	28	25	26	25	28	28	25
Don't know	18	22	14	14	17	16	24	12	26	15	18	18	21	13

Which of the below is how you would write that something belonged to the Prince of Wales?

The Prince of Wales'	68	64	72	72	71	64	66	70	65	68	70	67	64	75
The Prince of Wales's	25	25	24	14	21	30	30	23	26	22	25	27	24	22
Don't know	7	11	4	14	8	6	4	6	9	10	5	7	12	2

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Thinking about grammar, how confident are you that you know when it is appropriate to use...

A colon (:) versus a semi-colon (;)

Very confident	17	17	17	22	16	19	15	22	12	23	20	14	15	16
Fairly confident	41	37	44	45	39	42	41	44	37	40	41	44	39	39
TOTAL CONFIDENT	58	54	61	67	55	61	56	66	49	63	61	58	54	55
Not very confident	24	24	23	15	25	22	28	22	26	20	23	24	25	29
Not at all confident	10	11	9	6	9	10	13	7	14	8	10	10	13	8
TOTAL NOT CONFIDENT	34	35	32	21	34	32	41	29	40	28	33	34	38	37
Don't know	8	10	6	13	10	6	4	6	11	9	7	8	9	8

An en dash (–) versus an em dash (—)

Very confident	8	8	8	9	5	11	10	9	7	8	8	8	7	10
Fairly confident	21	20	22	19	19	24	24	21	21	25	22	22	18	18
TOTAL CONFIDENT	29	28	30	28	24	35	34	30	28	33	30	30	25	28
Not very confident	30	29	31	23	29	29	37	29	31	29	28	29	34	35
Not at all confident	27	27	27	27	33	24	19	29	24	23	29	27	27	24
TOTAL NOT CONFIDENT	57	56	58	50	62	53	56	58	55	52	57	56	61	59
Don't know	14	16	11	21	15	12	10	12	17	15	13	15	14	13

Do you think it is acceptable to begin a sentence with "And" or "But"?

Is acceptable	24	28	21	33	28	22	16	26	22	29	22	24	26	25
Is not acceptable	67	60	74	50	62	71	81	66	68	61	70	69	63	69
Don't know	9	12	5	17	10	7	4	8	10	9	8	7	12	6