

Punctuation Shoe

by Melissa Forney

The Punctuation Shoe makes a great manipulative reminder for young writers to check their punctuation. They can be decorated to look just like cute, whimsical sandals. Trace the shoe pattern on a half sheet of brightly colored craft foam. Carefully cut out the shoe design and cut on all lines inside the shoe. Folding it in half will allow you to make a snip and get your scissors inside.

Pull the bottom strap up toward the toe of the shoe, and slip the toe point through the slit in the strap. This step is easier if you work it through one pointed side at a time.

Use a black fine-tipped, permanent marker to write the following on the back side of the shoe:

Punctuation

1. Capital letters
2. Periods
3. Exclamation points
4. Question marks
5. Commas in a series
6. Indent first paragraph
7. Quotation marks

Checking for punctuation can be a drag, something kids find tedious and boring. The word *punctuation* sounds like “punc-shoe-ation,” obviously a silly pun when we use this shoe template. Humor and creativity make this brightly colored manipulative fun to use. Use my list above to check for students’ punctuation, or adapt it to fit your students’ writing needs.

