

**EJERCICIO DE COMPRENSIÓN ORAL (3 puntos)**

You are going to listen to a talk where Sir Ken Robinson speaks about the current state of education and how it could be transformed. Complete the gaps and answer the following questions according to what you hear. You now have 2 minutes to read the questions.

**1. Fill in the gaps with the words you hear in the talk. (5 x 0,2 = 1)**

- 1.1. The dropout crisis in the US is just the \_\_\_\_\_ (4 words).
- 1.2. Education under no children left behind is based on a culture of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.3. If kids sit down hour after hour, they start to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.4. It is a real achievement to put that particular ability out or to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- 1.5. Teachers are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the success of schools.

**2. Answer the questions according to what the speaker says in the talk. (5 x 0,3 = 1,5)**

- 2.1. What does the speaker mean by the irony in the expression “No child left behind”?
- 2.2. Why are the measures the USA is implementing not really working?
- 2.3. What is the first principle the speaker mentions about how human life flourishes?
- 2.4. What does the speaker think of STEM disciplines?
- 2.5. What is the whole point of education that we don't seem to be getting in current systems?

**3. Briefly outline (no more than 250 words) the content of the speech you have just listened to. (0,5)**

**EJERCICIO DE COMENTARIO DE TEXTO (4,5 puntos)**

**ARE YOU A HOSTILE PUNCTUATOR???**

*By Angela Haupt*

(Paragraph 1) Before you write off punctuation as little more than a dot, a line, or some combination of both, consider: A period can end a conversation—or an entire relationship. One too many question marks can make the recipient ask themselves if they really want to keep talking to you. Forgetting an exclamation point can spark the wrong kind of excitement.

(Paragraph 2) As digital communication has evolved, punctuation’s job description has gotten more demanding. When you fire off a text or Slack message, “You don’t have the context we have with spoken language,” says Anne Curzan, a professor of English, linguistics, and education at the University of Michigan. “You don’t have facial expressions, you don’t have tone, you don’t have the shared context of a physical space and gestures.” Is the person you’re talking to happy? Are they joking? Are they angry? Are they drop-dead serious? If you were face-to-face, “You’d have all of this context to be able to figure it out,” she says. “In texting, you have very little—so what young people in particular have done is repurpose punctuation.”

(Paragraph 3) That means those tiny symbols, in conjunction with emojis and abbreviations like “JK” and “LOL,” have become tools used to capture tone and facial expression, while making clear not only what you’re trying to say, but how you’re trying to say it. “We have to minimize ambiguity, because we’re not going to be there to clarify,” Curzan says. “So we have to get it right the first time.”

Are you the hostile punctuator in your group chat or Slack channels???

We asked experts how to tell—and how to fix it.

**YOU USE PERIODS WHEN YOU DON’T HAVE TO**

(Paragraph 4) The period has become a “point of contention”—pun certainly intended—says Andrew Albritton, an instructor in the IT and cybersecurity department at Missouri State University who has researched digital punctuation. “It’s the standard way to end a sentence or declaration, yet it’s become something that rubs people the wrong way.” Imagine, for example, that you send a friend this message: “Yay. I’m so happy for you.” Or, when your significant other asks you to meet her for dinner at her favorite restaurant, you reply: “OK.” No one would be surprised if the recipients embarked on a wild goose chase to track down the exclamation point clearly missing from your statement.

(Paragraph 5) Research suggests that omitting periods is a way people communicate that they’re feeling relaxed—which means suddenly dropping one into a conversation can express anger or irritation. In another study, when people read text message exchanges that either did or did not end with a period, they rated those that did as less sincere than those that did not. One-word texts with periods are perceived as especially negative and abrupt. Periods are “a little flat, especially compared to the exclamation point, which shows social enthusiasm, excitement, and even friendliness,” Albritton says. And don’t. Even. Get. Researchers started on including a period after each word in an exchange: While these serve no grammatical function, they’re typically used to communicate emotional intensity, which can be alarming to recipients.

(Paragraph 6) However, nuance matters in punctuation, and Albritton has found an important caveat: In certain circumstances, periods are used to convey earnestness or seriousness. College students who typically had a finger hovering above the exclamation point, for example, transitioned to periods when consoling friends: “Sorry about the job. It’ll work out.” In cases like that, the heightened sense of formality and seriousness will often be appreciated by the person on the receiving end, rather than interpreted as hostile.

**YOU’RE ATTACHED TO ELLIPSES**

(Paragraph 7) Different generations prefer different punctuation, says Deborah Tannen, a distinguished professor in the linguistics department at Georgetown University and author of books including *Conversational Style*. Take one of the most misunderstood punctuation marks of them all: the ellipsis, technically used to indicate a sentence is unfinished, or to add a pause or build suspense. “Older people tend to use three dots to indicate ‘on and on,’” she says. “Like, ‘You can guess the rest.’”



(Paragraph 8) Yet no one ever knows exactly what the ellipsis they're receiving means. This, experts say, is a punctuation choice that can make messages appear uncertain or vague, which confuses recipients and sometimes comes off as passive aggressive and rude. The sender, one imagines, is leaving something unsaid, which probably means it's unpleasant. Recipients are left to fill in the blanks. "Ellipses are fascinating," Albritton says. "I've often thought I need to do a study on those." (Will he? TBD...)

#### YOU DEPLOY MULTIPLE QUESTION MARKS

(Paragraph 9) If you're waiting for a friend to meet you after work, you might dash off a simple message: "Where are you?" It's to the point and polite; curious but not impatient. Switch things up, however—"Where are you?????"—and your friend may make a beeline in the opposite direction rather than face your perceived wrath.

(Paragraph 10) A string of question marks "does potentially communicate a sense of urgency that can be impolite," Albritton says. "It's demanding that somebody respond quickly," which could be interpreted as rude and unnecessarily aggressive, rather than simply curious.

(Paragraph 11) If you're uncomfortable with the many question marks someone is sending you, Curzan suggests taking a breath and not making immediate assumptions. Then ask them about it: "Those question marks felt a little aggressive to me. Did you mean that?" "You're giving the person the space to say, 'Oh my goodness, no,'" she says. "Don't assume you understand the intention."

*Adapted from © Time Magazine- 2025*

## QUESTIONS

1. Classify this text according to its typology and genre. Name 2 characteristics of this type of text. (0,3)

2. What regional variety of English is the text written in? Can you give 2 examples of this variety of English taken from the text? (0,3)

3. What is peculiar from a morphosyntactic point of view in these expressions (pay special attention to the underlined words)? (3 x 0,2 = 0,6)

- a) "...can make the recipient ask themselves ....." (paragraph 1)
- b) "A string of question marks "does potentially communicate....." (paragraph 10)
- c) "...that somebody respond....." (paragraph 10)

4. What figures of speech are used in the following underlined phrases? Explain your answer. (3 x 0,2 = 0,6)

- a) "A period can end a conversation—or an entire relationship." (paragraph 1)
- b) "College students who typically had a finger hovering above the exclamation point..." (paragraph 6)
- c) "Different generations prefer different punctuation ..." (paragraph 7)

5. Which is the primary communicative function of language the writer is exploiting in the following extracts? (3 x 0,1 = 0,3)

- a) "Are you the hostile punctuator in your group chat or Slack channels???" (paragraph 3)
- b) "Yay. I'm so happy for you." (paragraph 4)
- c) "Research suggests that omitting periods is a way people communicate that they're feeling relaxed" (paragraph 5)

6. Write the full form of the following abbreviations. (3 x 0,1 = 0,3)

- a) "LOL" (paragraph 3)
- b) "JK" (paragraph 3)
- c) "TBD" (paragraph 8)

7. Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first sentence, using the word given in bold and capital letters. Do not change the words given in any way. You must use between three and five words (including the word given). (5 x 0,2 = 1)

a) Don't assume you understand the intention.

**GRANTED**

Don't \_\_\_\_\_ that you understand the intention.

b) You don't have the context we have with spoken language in texting.

**YOU**

It is the context of spoken language \_\_\_\_\_ in texting.

c) Suddenly dropping a period into a conversation can express anger or irritation.

**BLUE**

Dropping a period into a conversation \_\_\_\_\_ can express anger or irritation.



d) In face-to-face communication gestures can help you understand how serious a message or the situation can be. **HOME**

Gestures \_\_\_\_\_ the seriousness of the message or the situation in face-to-face communication.

e) In texting, you may not be caught when making an inappropriate curt remark, depending on punctuation.

**AWAY**

In texting, \_\_\_\_\_ an inappropriate curt remark depending on punctuation.

**8. Explain what the author is trying to convey with these sentences, paying special attention to the underlined expressions. Please explain the meaning of these expressions. (3 x 0,2 = 0,6)**

a) "The period has become a "point of contention"-pun certainly intended-says Andrew Albritton..." (paragraph 4)

b) "No one would be surprised if the recipients embarked on a wild goose chase to track down the exclamation point clearly missing from your statement" (paragraph 4)

c) "...and your friend may make a beeline in the opposite direction rather than face your perceived wrath" (paragraph 9)

**9. Please find synonyms in the text for the following words (3 x 0,1 = 0,3).**

- a) Warning (paragraph 6):
- b) Emerges (paragraph 8):
- c) Rage (paragraph 9):

**10. Some of these words are pronounced the same but have a different spelling. Identify and write the word with a different pronunciation in each group (2 x 0,1 = 0,2).**

- a) so – sew – saw
- b) might – mite – mitt



**TRADUCCIÓN DIRECTA (1,25 puntos)**

But I've been turning over in my mind the question of nostalgia, and whether I suffer from it. I certainly don't get soggy at the memory of some childhood knick-knack; nor do I want to deceive myself sentimentally about something that wasn't even true at the time- love of the old school, and so on. But if nostalgia means the powerful recollection of strong emotions- and a regret that such feelings are no longer present in our lives- then I plead guilty. I'm nostalgic for my early time with Margaret, for Susie's birthday and first years, for that road trip with Annie. And if we're talking about strong feelings that will never come again, I suppose it's possible to be nostalgic about remembered pain as well as remembered pleasure. And that opens up the field, doesn't it? It also leads straight to the matter of Miss Veronica Ford.

*The Sense of an Ending*, by Julian Barnes (2011)

**TRADUCCIÓN INVERSA (1,25 puntos)**

Sueño que voy a comprar el periódico y que cuando llego al quiosco, en vez del vendedor habitual, está atendiendo una chica a la que no conozco. Se trata de una joven que viste una camiseta muy ligera en la que se marca, a modo de una nervadura delicada, su ropa interior. La nervadura me recuerda los entramados de capilares que se distinguen en las hojas secas de los árboles. Advierto entonces que la belleza que posee, intensísima, es también muy inestable, muy volátil, que diría un economista. No sé por qué se me ocurre el adjetivo volátil, que solo se aplica a determinados compuestos químicos y a ciertos comportamientos de la Bolsa. El caso es que, de súbito, la belleza, como una nube que se deshilacha, desaparece del rostro de la joven sin que ella parezca darse cuenta. En su versión fea es horrible.

*La vida a ratos*, Juan José Millas (2019)