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**ENGLISH PUNCTUATION IN VARIOUS STYLES OF TEXT**

**Bakalářská práce**

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Prohlašuji, že jsem závěrečnou písemnou práci zpracovala samostatně a použila pouze uvedených pramenů, literatury a elektronických zdrojů.

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.....  
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## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis deals with the punctuation in English. In the theoretical part, there are individual punctuation marks described and their usage is explained. Briefly, there are the differences between formal and informal English described. In the practical part, there is the analysis of the informal and formal texts and its outcomes shown. As informal there were informal personal texts from the website Teenhelp.org and as formal there were internet newspapers' articles from the website Theguardian.com used.

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## 1. Introduction

Where there is a text, there is punctuation. The text and the punctuation coexist together and they cannot be separated. As Lukeman (2006, p. 32) shows: “*A sentence like this without any commas makes it nearly impossible for readers to know when to pause if not when to stop and also makes them feel as if the full stop cannot come soon enough indeed should have come several moments ago.*” The comma is usually the most frequent punctuation mark; however, every punctuation mark is important and has its own function and place in a sentence.

According to Lukeman (2006, p. v), full stop is a red light, comma is the speed bump, semicolon the bridge, colon the magician, and dash and brackets are the interrupter and the adviser.

The object of this bachelor thesis is to focus on the rules and conventions of punctuation. The theoretical part will deal with some authors’ opinions and statements about the rules and conventions of punctuation usage. It will compare their ideas and will offer an overview of the rules and conventions.

In the practical part, examples of informal and formal English texts will be analysed. The expectation is to find differences in the usage of individual punctuation marks. The main focus will be on the comparison of the analyses’ outcomes from both informal and formal texts. As example of the informal text, informal personal texts on the website Teenhelp.org were chosen. And as example of the formal text, formal internet newspapers’ articles on the website Theguardian.com were chosen.

# THEORETICAL PART

## 2. Punctuation marks

Ronald Carter and Michael McCarthy (2006, p. 838) state that punctuation “*exist* [in written language] *in order to indicate the boundaries of grammatical units and to indicate grammatical information that is marked in spoken language by means of intonation, pitch etc.*”. There are many punctuation marks used in English – such as full stop (.), comma (,), question mark (?), exclamation mark (!), colon (:), semicolon (;), apostrophe (‘), quotation marks (“-”, ’-’), hyphen (-), dash (–), brackets (), ellipsis (...) or slash (/). They are all used in a slightly different technique and they all have a different function in a sentence.

Charles Butler (in Partridge, 1960, p. 3) divides punctuation marks into primary and secondary. Primary marks are full stop (.), comma (,), colon (:), semicolon (;), question mark (?), exclamation mark (!) and brackets (). Whereas secondary marks are apostrophe (‘), dash (–), hyphen (-) and ellipsis (...).

While Lindley Murray (in Partridge, 1960, p. 4) says punctuation is to mark the pauses of the spoken language in the written one, A Practical Printer (also in Partridge, 1960, p. 4) opposes. It says that the voice of an intelligent reader ignores some of the marks and pauses at other places than where there are the marks.

It is essential to state that there are punctuation rules and conventions. Rules are to be followed at any times whereas conventions allow differences in usage (Carter, McCarthy, 2006, p. 838).

Webster’s New International Dictionary (in Partridge, 1960, p. 95) divides punctuation into open and close. It is close when the marks are used freely to mark the separation and grouping of phrases, clauses or other sentence elements. Close punctuation makes the writing clear and precise. However, in open punctuation, one omits marks where it is possible, therefore, it can be less clear. This is used, for example, when writing addresses nowadays.

Quirk and collective (1985, p. 1610-1611) state that punctuation has two functions or purposes. One is to separate and the other is to specify. ‘Separation’ is divided into successive and included units. ‘Successive units’ means that for example two words are separated by a comma. ‘Included units’ means that for example a parenthetical clause is put between two commas. And finally, ‘specification’ is the additional function of a punctuation mark. For



example, the apostrophe in *the reader's* specifies the genitive in contrast to the phonologically equal *the readers*.

## 2.1 Full stop

Full stop (.) or period, as it is called in the United States of America, is one of the most common punctuation marks, therefore primary one. It is used at the end of a declarative or imperative sentence. For example:

*Peter loves cats.*

*Somebody open the window, please.*

According to Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 839), full stop marks not only the end of a sentence but of a sentence fragment, or orthographic sentences in other words, as well. That is usually to create a dramatic effect. For example:

*Really.* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 839)

*When? – Three times a week.*

Moreover, Carter with McCarthy (2006, p. 840) mention other functions of a full stop. It is used when writing initials and when writing some abbreviations. If an abbreviation includes the last letter of the word, full stop is not needed. Here are some examples:

*J. D. Power* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 840)

*Addr. = address* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 840) but

*Dr = Doctor* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 840)

Seely (2013, p. 65) adds the usage of a full stop when writing an email or website address. For example:

*kamila.cermanova01@upol.cz*

*www.oxforddictionaries.com*

## 2.2 Comma

Comma (,) is one of the most used punctuation marks and primary one as well as full stop is. Comma is used to separate words, phrases and or sentence clauses. For example:

*They've got apples, pears, bananas, and peaches.* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 844)

*You have to wake up, get up and then brush your teeth.*

*Her brother, who is a doctor, lives in L.A.*

However, according to Lukeman (2006, p. 32), comma may be used to connect as well. It can connect two sentences together. For example:

*She is coming home, I am leaving the house.*

Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 844-845) specify that commas are used with adjectives, adjuncts, tags, yes – no responses, vocatives, discourse markers, interjections, when indicating a direct speech and when addressing the recipient of a letter. Here are some examples:

*The town was cold, dark and inhospitable.* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 844)

*It was, however, the best decision taken at that point in the company.* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 844)

*He is right, isn't he? – Yes, he is.*

*Open the door for them, Jake, can you.* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 844)

*Well, what do you suppose they did about it?* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 844)

*He said, "Now it's time for big changes."* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 845)

*Dear David,* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 845)

The article *What is the Oxford comma?* (2015) explains the existence of a serial comma. It is known mainly as oxford comma because it has been a part of Oxford University Press style. Serial comma is added before the word 'and' or 'or' in a list in order for the sentence to be clearer. Here is an example:

*The bishop of Bath and Wells, Bristol, Salisbury, and Winchester* (What is the Oxford comma?, 2015)

In this example, the bishop of Bath and Wells is one person whereas the bishops of Bristol, Salisbury, and Winchester are three different people (What is the Oxford comma?, 2015).

Quirk and Greenbaum (1985) specify the usage of a comma in a sentence. They say (p. 1615) that one uses a comma when separating closely associated clauses. However, these cannot be independent clauses because one should use a colon or a semicolon in that case. A comma is acceptable when a coordinator is contained. Here are some examples:

*Schoolchildren have adopted the fund as one of their favourite charities; their small contributions have enabled the fund to reach its target.* (Quirk and collective, 1985, p. 1615)

but

*Schoolchildren have adopted the fund as one of their favourite charities, and their small contributions have enabled the fund to reach its target.* (Quirk and collective, 1985, p. 1615)

Quirk and collective (1985, p. 1616-1617) state that when the two clauses are rather short and linked by a coordinator, a comma is not compulsory. On the other hand, when the two clauses are in contrast, it is common to use a comma. Though it is not a punctuation rule but a punctuation tendency or convention. For example:

*The work was pleasant and the hours were short.* (Quirk and collective, 1985, p. 1616)

*We are thinking of buying a short-wave radio, but we haven't made up our minds.* (Quirk and collective, 1985, p. 1616)

Additionally, Quirk and collective (1985, p. 1618) say that a comma is not used when combining two sentence units with a coordinator. But when combining more than two units, a comma is common. A writer can decide whether he or she will use a serial comma or not. As examples may serve:

*I'll read the book and then tell you whether it's worth reading.* (Quirk and collective, 1985, p. 1618)

*She slowly, carefully(,) and deliberately moved the box.* (Quirk and collective, 1985, p. 1618)

There is a rule, according to Quirk and collective (1985, p. 1619), which says that at certain circumstances, a comma cannot be used. It cannot separate the basic of a sentence. That is, it cannot separate subject, verb, object and complement. For example:

*\*The man over there in the corner, is obviously drunk.* (Quirk and collective, 1985, p. 1619)

*\*The old, man died.* (Quirk and collective, 1985, p. 1620)

A comma, as Quirk and collective (1985, p. 1620) state, may be exceptionally put between subject and verb. That is if there could be a momentary confusion otherwise. Here are their examples:

*What his name is, is of no interest to me.* (Quirk and collective, 1985, p. 1620)

*What one person may think of, another may not.* (Quirk and collective, 1985, p. 1620)

According to Bates (1991, p. 251-252), a comma is the most frequently used punctuation mark, which makes it the most misused one. She warns (p. 255) that a comma cannot be put between two complete thoughts which are not connected by a coordinator such as ‘and’, ‘but’, ‘for’, ‘or’ or ‘nor’. It is because it would create a comma splice. For example:

Comma splice: *Sonja loved the house, however, Charlie cleaned it.* (Bates, 1991, p. 255)

Comma splice: *France could not accept this, the result was the 1623 Treaty of Paris.* (Seely, 2013, p. 33)

Comma splice: *There is something wrong with Facebook and Twitter, people who think they are that interesting are usually to be avoided unless they are Stephen Fry.* (Seely, 2013, p. 33)

Seely (2013, p. 33-34) also believes that the comma splice should be avoided and offers three options to do so. The first option is to use a conjunction, the second is to use a semicolon instead and the third is to use a full stop. The examples mentioned above, would be corrected as follows:

*Sonja loved the house; however, Charlie cleaned it.* (Bates, 1991, p. 255)

*France could not accept this and the result was the 1623 Treaty of Paris.* (Seely, 2013, p. 33)

*There is something wrong with Facebook and Twitter. People who think they are that interesting are usually to be avoided unless they are Stephen Fry.* (Seely, 2013, p. 34)

### 2.3 Question mark

When writing a direct question there is always a question mark (?) at the end of the sentence. When question mark is used, it is instead of full stop or exclamation mark. These points cannot be used together. Partridge (1960, p. 79) names this punctuation mark an interrogation mark, interrogation point, or a mark, a note or a point of interrogation as well. As an example may serve:

*When shall I see you again? – Never!* (Partridge, 1960, p. 79)

A person asking a question usually waits for the answer, however, when using a rhetorical question, one does not await the answer. For example:

*Why don't you leave me alone?*

Seely (2013, p. 139) believes that a question mark can be used in brackets to indicate doubtfulness. Here is his example:

*All was going well until a passing lad with a sense of fun (?) pulled out the plug.* (Seely, 2013, p. 139)

## 2.4 Exclamation mark

Exclamation marks (!) are used at the end of exclamatives, wishes and interjections. For example:

*Wow!* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 841)

*What a nice coat!* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 841)

*I wish you were here!*

Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 841) state that exclamation mark is used to emphasise the sentence or to show that the sentence is or could be shouted. This punctuation mark is rarely used in formal writings whereas in informal texts there can even be more than one exclamation marks. As an example may serve:

*Oh no!!! I don't believe it!* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 841)

Seely (2013, p. 60) adds writing an exclamation mark when expressing amusement or, when written in brackets, expressing irony. For example:

*Her son was the biggest poacher – he was a devil: he'd rob your house in the middle of the day and let you see him!* (Seely, 2013, p. 60)

*I look ruddy, muscly, well covered (!) and just, shall we say, solid.* (Seely, 2013, p. 60)

According to Lukeman (2006, p. 172-173), using exclamation is not required all the time, however, there are times which do require this punctuation mark. These are to indicate a direct command, an extreme surprise, pain or anger. For example:

*Stop!* (Lukeman, 2006, p. 172)

*I can't believe it!* (Lukeman, 2006, p. 173)

*Ouch!* (Lukeman, 2006, p. 173)

*You looser!*

R. M. Ritter (in Lukeman, 2006, p. 173) concedes the option of combining exclamation and question mark but states that this combination may indicate hysteria. Here is an example:

*You mean her!?* (Lukeman, 2006, p. 173)

## 2.5 Colon

As Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 845) state, colon (:) is used to introduce lists, to indicate subtitles and to mark a clause which explains the preceding one. Here are some examples:

*There are three main arguments for the withdrawal of the troops: military, economic and, above all, ethical.* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 845)

*YOU HAVE A POINT THERE: A Guide to Punctuation and Its Allies*

*We decided against buying the DVD player: it wasn't lightweight enough to take on holiday with us.* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 845)

Seely (2013, p. 32) adds the function of introducing a direct speech or a quotation. For example:

*At once he said: 'I do not mean your immediate brief journey.'* (Seely, 2013, p. 32)

Additionally, Lukeman (2006, p. 81) uses colon to pause. While a full stop and a semicolon provide a pause between two or more thoughts, and a comma provides a pause between two or more clauses, a colon provides a pause within one thought. For example:

*I want to tell you something: I love you.* (Lukeman, 2006, p. 81) As opposed to

*I want to tell you that I love you.* (Lukeman, 2006, p. 81) Where there is no pause detected.

## 2.6 Semicolon

Semicolon (;) is used, according to Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 845-846), to separate items in a list or to separate two main clauses instead of a full stop. Although the two clauses are separated grammatically, they are linked in the meaning. For example:

*The facility has a number of features: a cinema; two meeting rooms; a fast-food café; a small gymnasium.* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 845)

*Some cats sleep during the night; most cats are active during the dark.* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 446)

Lukeman (2006, p. 59) believes that when there are many short sentences in a paragraph, using a semicolon instead of a full stop will make the paragraph more sophisticated and smooth. Here is an example:

*She wasn't going to support him anymore. It was time for him to get a job. He'd never leave the house otherwise; he'd loaf forever if he could. He was born that way. It was thanks to his father. It had taken her twenty years to get rid of him. She wouldn't go through that again.*

*The son had two years; after that, the locks were changed.* (Lukeman, 2006, p. 60)

Additionally, Lukeman (2006, p. 61) would use a semicolon to omit words. For example, from a sentence: *She couldn't dance in her favourite ballroom because it was being renovated.* He would make this sentence:

*She couldn't dance in her favourite ballroom; it was being renovated.* (Lukeman, 2006, p. 61)

Patricia Teel Bates (1991, p. 251) says that a semicolon is a Turn Mark and should be used to turn from one main idea within a sentence to another. However, she warns that this punctuation mark cannot be used to end a sentence as full stop. Here is her example:

*Barney won a million dollars; the whole family went wild.* (Bates, 1991, p. 251)

## 2.7 Apostrophe

John Seely (2013, p. 17-18) gives apostrophe (') two functions. The first is to mark that one or more letters have been omitted, while the second is showing possession. As examples may serve:

*Will not = won't* (Seely, 2013, p. 17)

*Where's = where is, where has* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 848)

*The girl's handbag* (Seely, 2013, p. 18)

Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 849) add to Seely's functions one other function. That is to show special plurals as in the names of firms, shops and businesses, or in references to decades. Here are some examples:

*I am going over to Blue's for coffee.* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 849)

*It was a hit back in the 1970's.*

## 2.8 Quotation marks

Quotation marks double or single ("-" or '-') are used to display a direct speech or a citation. A citation is usually written in italics whereas a direct speech is not (Carter, McCarthy, 2006, p. 847).

*She said: "I don't like it here."*

*'Although the authorised version of the Bible is abuzz with speeches, dialogue and discussion, there is not a single quotation mark in sight. This would hardly do today.'* – Graham King, *Collins Good Punctuation* (Lukeman, 2006, p. 123)

Double and single quotation marks, according to Partridge (1960, p. 122), can both be primary and secondary. Meaning that one can represent inner and the other main quotation. As in:

*"And Jane told me then: 'I don't like him!'"* or

*'And Jane told me then: "I don't like him!"'*

As Wade Guyitt (2011) states in the article *Canadian English explored*, single quotation marks are preferred in British English. While double quotation marks are commonly used as primary in American and Canadian English.

Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 847) give single quotation marks another special function. When a word is put between them, it is to indicate a special attention to it. It should be taken in a non-literal or non-obvious sense. For example:

*The bus broke down twice and, as far as I am concerned, I won't be using the city 'transport' system again.* (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p. 847)

John Seely (2013, p. 78) calls these punctuation marks inverted commas because of their visage. He adds another function to the Carter and McCarthy's functions. That is, using inverted commas for titles of for example books or films. However, the more common form used for titles is using italics. For example:

*'The Taming of the Shrew'* (Seely, 2013, p. 79)

Bates (1991, p. 256) states basic rules of quotation marks' usage with other punctuation marks. Commas and full stops should be inside the quotation marks, while colons and semicolons outside. The position of question and exclamation marks depends on the fact, whereas the quoted sentence is a question or an exclamation or not.

## 2.9 Hyphen

Hyphen (-), as Harry Shaw (1964, p. 97) sees it, is used when spelling compound words, dividing words at the end of a line, indicating a structure of a word, suggesting hesitation,



showing a dialect or a careless pronunciation, and writing certain addresses and telephone numbers. For example:

*Hard-working*

*The botanist used only two specimens in his demonstration. (Shaw, 1964, p. 89)*

*s-t-r-u-c-t-u-r-e*

*W-e-ll, I think I can go with you; y-y-ess, I'm sure I can. (Shaw, 1964, p. 97)*

*The horse came a-tearin' to the barn when it heard my whistle. (Shaw, 1964, p. 97)*

*He lives at 109-82 109<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Albans, Mass. (Shaw, 1964, p. 97)*

*554-3374 (Shaw, 1964, p. 97)*

Carter and McCarty (2006, p. 850) state that a hyphen is used within modifiers, and (p. 482) that sometimes compounds can stand without a hyphen, however, sometimes a hyphen is compulsory. That is to disambiguate different words. For example:

*A twelve-year-old girl (Carter, McCarthy, 2006, p. 850)*

*Re-form = form again and reform = change radically (Carter, McCarthy, 2006, p. 482)*

Lukeman (2006, p. 177) sees the hyphen as a creative punctuation mark used by poets to connect two unlikely words together creating their own new language. He also warns to notice the difference between the hyphen (-) and the dash (–) as they are visually similar but different in meaning and usage.

## 2.10 Dash

Dash (–) is, according to Seely (2013, p. 48), an extended hyphen and he distinguishes between an em dash (—) and an en dash (–). The em dash is used to show a break in a sentence. To show some words in parenthesis, it is used in pairs. It can develop a sentence or introduce an example, although this is used in rather informal texts. A hyphen can introduce writer's aside, or in direct speech it can show a break in the middle of a sentence or a word. Seely (p. 49) states, that traditionally there is no space before and after the em dash. However, he admits that nowadays the em dash (—) is being replaced by the en dash form (–) and that there are spaces before and after it. Here are examples of the em dash mentioned above:

*In brute material terms he was an accomplice—in fact, a conspirator—to the murder of millions of children. (Seely, 2013, p. 48)*

*You must have seen it, I'm sure—the blue flag with a white square in the middle. (Seely, 2013, p. 48)*

*I occupied Piers' old studio and Toby the three guest rooms—this purely for company. (Seely, 2013, p. 48)*

*I smiled and she said, 'You mean you want to—' (Seely, 2013, p. 48)*

Seely's en dashes (2013, p. 49) are used to mark sequences and there are no spaces before and after them in this usage. Here is an example:

*1999-2000 (Seely, 2013, p. 49)*

Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 850) state that dashes are used in rather informal texts and can be used similarly as commas. They distinguish single and multiple dashes. Here are their examples in which they put spaces before and after the punctuation marks:

*Our Head of Finance – who often loses his temper about travel expenses – was the calmest in the room. I couldn't believe it! (Carter, McCarthy, 2006, p. 850)*

*Just to let you know we've just got back from Mallorca --- we really loved it. (Carter, McCarthy, 2006, p. 850)*

## 2.11 Brackets

According to Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 838), brackets are open (, close ), square [], chain {} or diamond <>. They (p. 850) believe that bracket have a similar function as dashes. They add that one can put an 'afterthought' between the brackets. For example:

*We were up late most nights (not working, of course!) and so never really got up till after midday. (Carter, McCarthy, 2006, p. 850)*

As Seely (2013, p. 23) states, brackets are always used in pairs. Words or clauses put between them give additional information to the sentence. The part that is put between the brackets does not have to be essential to the meaning of the sentence, either does it have to fit into the grammatical structure of the sentence. Some writers use brackets to make an aside or a comment to the reader. And in informal texts, readers can sometimes feel as if the writer talked to them directly thanks to the brackets. For example:

*A limited company is set up by two or more people, each of whom pays a share of the start-up capital (which may be as little as £1 each). (Seely, 2013, p. 23)*

*It's like any group of people (virtual or in real life); you're going to have individuals who feel a certain way about an issue ... (Seely, 2023, p. 23)*

*This is also known as junk email ... or spam. Obviously, it's impossible to distribute processed lunchmeat electronically at this time (and hopefully it'll never happen). (Seely, 2013, p. 24)*

Shaw (1964, p. 45) believes that brackets are useful when quoting someone who made an error. One can correct the error by putting the right information in between brackets or by putting there the word 'sic'. Here are some examples:

*In 1776 on the tenth [fourth] day of July, the Declaration of Independence was signed. (Shaw, 1964, p. 46)*

*I am of English decent [sic] and am proud of my heritage. (Shaw, 1964, p. 46)*

## 2.12 Ellipsis

According to Seely (2013, p. 58), ellipsis (...) is a sequence of three full stops which is used to mark the omission of some words, to indicate that a statement is left unfinished and to mark that a list continues in a similar way. For example:

*In the sentence, 'Nothing can be ... such a statement,' he tries to explain the reasons for his inaction. (Seely, 2013, p. 58)*

*He said, 'If only this war was over...' (Seely, 2013, p. 58)*

*2, 4, 6, 8 ...*

Shaw (1964, p. 92) adds the usage of ellipsis when indicating the passing of time and separating groups of words for emphasis which is mainly used in the advertising business. Here are his examples:

*The day wore on from sunrise to midmorning ... steaming noon ... blistering afternoon ... cooling sunset. (Shaw, 1964, p. 92)*

*Do it soon ... Do it today ... Do it now. See ... Your local dealer. (Shaw, 1964, p. 92)*

Lukeman (2006, p. 176) warns, however, that when a writer is an amateur, the ellipsis can be problematic. He states that amateurs use it whenever they struggle with the ending of a

sentence, a paragraph or a chapter. They believe that ellipsis will compel readers to continue reading which is a wrong belief. It is the content that makes readers continue reading.

### 2.13 Slash

Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 838) divide slashes into forward slash (/) and backwards slash or backslash (\). They (p. 850) state that a forward slash is used in internet addresses, in academic references as an ‘and/or’, and when writing a date. Carter and McCarty (2006, p. 851) say that the Americans use different format of writing a date than the British. The Americans use the format of ‘month/day/year’, whereas the British use the format of ‘day/month/year’. For example:

*<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>*

*Jenkins 1991/1997 has given three reasons for this state of affairs.* (Carter, McCarthy, 2006., p. 850)

*19/2/2018 or 2/19/2018*

John Seely (2013, p. 152) does not differentiate between forward and backwards slash, he only states slash meaning the forward slash. He uses this punctuation mark when indicating alternatives, showing a range, in some abbreviations and in fractions. Here are some examples:

*A trainee can amass as many credits as he / she likes.* ‘Seely, 2013, p. 152)

*Accounts for the year 1999/2000* (Seely, 2013, p. 152)

*c/o* (Seely, 2013, p. 152)

$\frac{1}{2}$

### 3. Formal and informal English

There are two basic types of English. One is formal and the other informal. They are both used at different occasions, in different types of texts and with different people. As Szynalski (2001) states in his article ‘Formal and informal English’, the formal English is usually used in rather ‘serious’ types of text. It is used in official documents, books, news reports, articles, business letters and official speeches. While informal English is used in everyday conversations and in personal letters or e-mails nowadays.

The same thought can be expressed in both types of the language. For example:

Formal English: *As the price of five dollars was reasonable, I decided to make the purchase without further thought.* (Szynalski, 2001)

Informal English: *It was, like, five bucks, so I was like “okay”.* (Szynalski, 2001)

#### 3.1 Formal English

Formal English often occurs in texts which are carefully edited. It can occur in the oral form as well; for example, when reading the news or delivering an official speech. Sentences tend to be longer, complex and more complicated, and the standard of correctness is higher in the formal form of English than in the informal. What it means, is that some phrases, which would be acceptable in informal speeches, are intolerable in formal texts or speeches (Szynalski, 2001). For example:

Informal: *She’s liking it.* (Szynalski, 2001)

Formal: *She likes it.* (Szynalski, 2001)

There is a specific vocabulary that is used in formal texts. Some of the commonly used words and phrases are: *nevertheless, to enchant, as it happens* or *frantically*. Additionally, one tends to avoid using phrasal verbs in formal English (Szynalski, 2001).

Szynalski (2001) also shows what are the most common formal types of text or speeches. They are news reports, articles, books, audiobooks and spoken news.

According to the article “Formal and informal writing”, one can use a semicolon in the formal writing when he or she is comfortable using it correctly. This is because the semicolon tends to be used in rather formal texts. Additionally, one should avoid using the exclamation marks as they tend to be informal (2014). As the article “When to Use Formal and Informal English”

(2018) states, in formal writing one should avoid contractions. The apostrophe should not be used to omit letters.

### 3.2 Informal English

Informal English, according to Szynalski (2001), is unprepared and occurs in everyday life. It is not as edited as the formal English and the sentences tend to be shorter and simpler. When speaking, people use additional words and phrases – Szynalski (2001) calls them: “*delaying expressions, correcting expressions, qualifying expressions and everyday phrases*”. Delaying expressions are “*well, you know*”, correcting ones are “*I mean*”, qualifying ones “*kind of*”, and everyday expressions are “*Here you go, Come again?*”.

Additionally, Szynalski (2001) says that informal language has its specifics as well. People tend to use phrasal verbs and common informal words are for example: “*dude, chill out, or grownup*”. Some phrases are shortened and simplified. For example: “*Whassup?, Lemme go!*”

In informal English people usually say “*found out*”, while in formal English they say “*discovered*” instead.

Szynalski (2001) shows what are the most common informal types of text or speeches. It is the everyday conversation, then talk shows and radio conversations, films, TV series and videogames, and personal e-mails.

As it was mentioned in the subchapter 2.4, Carter and McCarthy state that exclamation mark is rarely used in formal writings whereas in informal texts there can even be more than one exclamation marks (2006, p. 841). The article “Formal and informal writing” (2014) on the website KS3 Bitesize agrees with the exclamation mark’s informality and recommends its usage in informal writing only.

Additionally, R. M. Ritter (in Lukeman, 2006, p. 173) concedes the option of combining exclamation and question mark but states that this combination may indicate hysteria. Therefore, this combination could be used in informal writing but could not in formal.

The article “When to Use Formal and Informal English” (2018) on the website Proofread MyDocument adds that in the informal writing it is possible to use contractions. That is, to use apostrophes when showing both possessions and contractions.

## PRACTICAL PART

### 4. The analysis of the texts

This part of the bachelor thesis will deal with the comparison of the punctuation usage in informal and formal texts. As example of the informal text, informal personal texts on the website Teenhelp.org were chosen. As example of the formal text, formal internet newspapers' articles on the website Theguardian.com were chosen.

The informal texts which were analysed are following: 'Review of Dystopia by Megadeth' by Tort (I1), 'Emotional abuse vs emotional neglect' by Cassie (I2), 'Healing from an abusive relationship' by Sammi (I3), 'Myelomeningocele' by Brittany (I4), 'My brother's Husband: A Review' by Jenna (I5), 'New Year's Resolutions' by Jenna M. (I6), and 'Exploring your gender identity' by Chess (I7). These texts were chosen as informal, because the authors are not journalists, the articles are mainly personal and written to help the author himself and/or the reader.

The formal articles which were analysed are following: 'California police worked with neo-Nazis to pursue 'anti-racist' activists, documents show' by Sam Levin (F1), 'Iceland's new leader: 'People don't trust our politicians'' by Jon Henley (F2), 'Lack of migrant workers left food rotting in UK fields last year, data reveals' by Damian Carrington (F3), 'UK trade deficit grows as oil price rise pushes up cost of fuel imports' by Richard Partington (F4), 'Eurostar to launch London-Amsterdam direct service in April' by Rebecca Smithers (F5), 'Barnier and Davis wage war of words over Brexit transition claims' by Daniel Boffey and Jennifer Rankin (F6), and 'Nicola Sturgeon rejects calls to clarify US military Prestwick use' by Severin Carrell (F7). These articles were chosen as formal, because the authors are journalists and the articles are published on the official website of the newspaper The Guardian which is valued in the UK.

The informal texts put together contain 5593 words while the formal articles put together contain 5595 words. Therefore, as they are of the same quantity, is it possible to compare them.

The aim of the analysis of the texts is to find differences in the punctuation usage in informal and formal texts. The expectation is either the confirmation or refutation of the following statements:

- a. The quotation marks are less used in the informal texts.

That is because the formal texts (internet newspaper's articles) should contain more quotations of people's speeches than informal texts do.

- b. The hyphen is more used in the informal texts.

The reason for that was hyphen's function of connecting two words together and creating new words which tend to be informal.

- c. The question and exclamation marks are more used in the informal texts.

As these punctuation marks should be used only exceptionally in a formal writing.

- d. The comma is less used in the informal texts.

This was stated because it is expected that the formal articles will contain more complex sentences than the informal.

- e. The most used punctuation marks are the comma, the full stop and the apostrophe in both informal and formal texts.

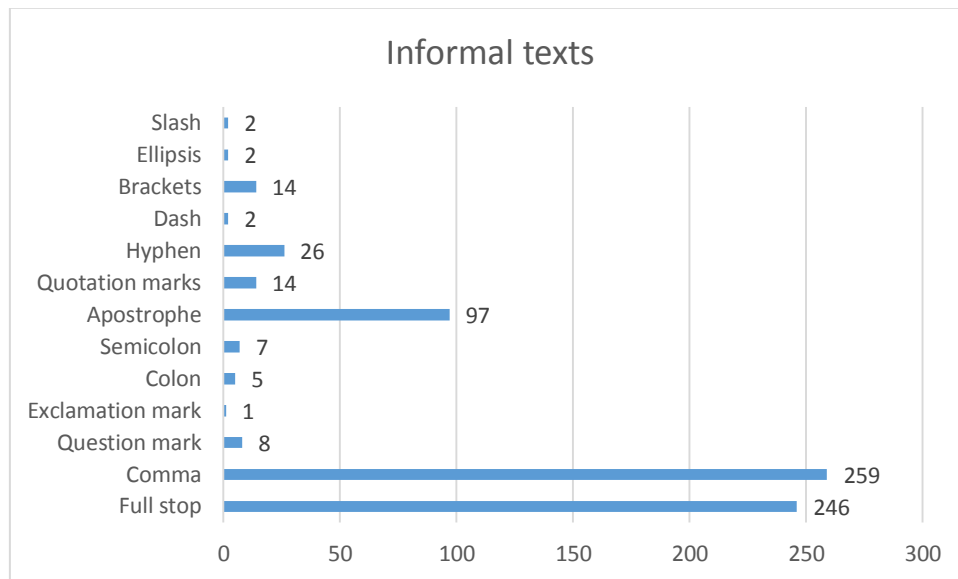
That is because they are primary (the full stop and the comma) or commonly used.

- f. Punctuation is less used in the informal texts.

The reason for that was the expectation of less complex and difficult sentences in the informal texts and e.g. less quotation marks used.



## 4.1 Informal texts

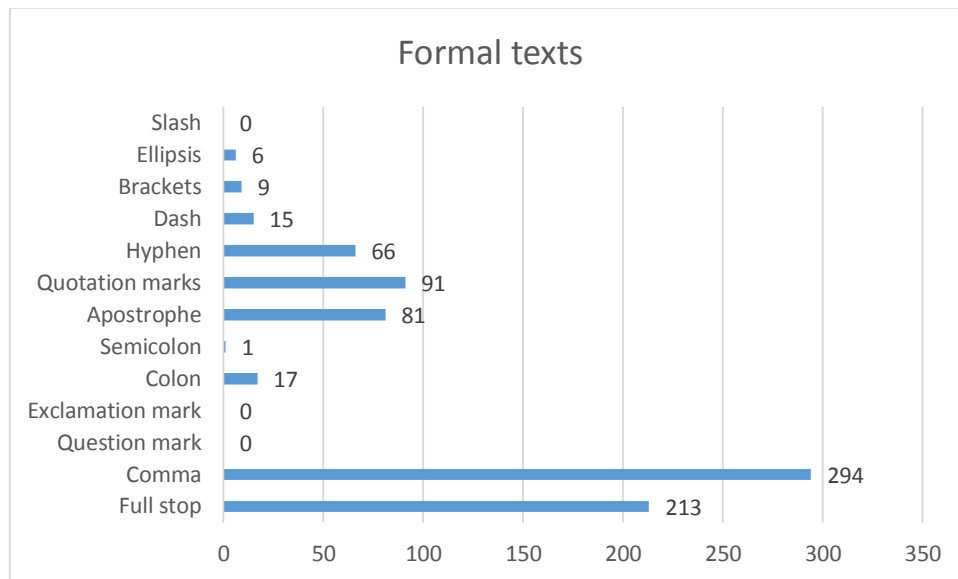


*Figure 1: Punctuation marks in informal texts*

In the seven chosen texts from the website Teenhelp.org, there were used 683 punctuation marks overall. The average number of punctuation marks used in a single text was 97,57.

As it is visible in the Figure 1 above, the comma was the most used punctuation mark and there were 259 of them. The second most used was the full stop with 246 appearances in the texts. Apostrophe was the third in usage with 97 appearances. There were 26 hyphens, 14 brackets and 14 quotation marks, 8 question marks, 7 semicolons, 5 colons, 2 slashes, ellipses and dashes, and 1 exclamation mark. In other words, 38% of all used punctuation marks were commas, 36% were full stops and 14% were apostrophes. Other punctuation marks were in the remaining 12%.

## 4.2 Formal texts



*Figure 2: Punctuation marks in formal texts*

In the seven chosen articles from the website Theguardian.com, there were used 793 punctuation marks overall. The average number of punctuation marks used in a single text was 113,28.

As it is visible in the Figure 2 above, the comma was the most used punctuation mark and there were 294 of them. The second most used was the full stop with 213 appearances in the texts. The quotation marks were the third in usage with 91 appearances. There were 81 apostrophes, 66 hyphens, 17 colons, 15 dashes, 9 brackets, 6 ellipses and 1 semicolon. The exclamation and question marks, and slashes were not used in any of the formal texts. 37% of all used punctuation marks were commas, 27% were full stops, 12% were quotation marks and 10% were apostrophes. The remaining 14% belong to the hyphens, dashes, colons, brackets, ellipses and semicolon.

### 4.3 Comparison of the texts

TEXT	.	,	?	!	:	;	'	“”	-	–	()	...	/
I1	42	51	0	0	0	0	17	2	4	0	5	0	1
I2	21	13	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	0
I3	71	69	2	1	1	1	17	0	3	0	1	0	1
I4	24	27	0	0	0	1	10	0	8	0	3	0	0
I5	19	9	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
I6	32	29	6	0	1	5	18	4	3	0	0	2	0
I7	37	61	0	0	2	0	26	8	1	2	5	0	0
F1	40	52	0	0	3	0	20	23	33	0	2	0	0
F2	54	93	0	0	2	1	30	28	17	10	0	2	0
F3	39	58	0	0	7	0	8	15	3	1	4	0	0
F4	22	19	0	0	1	0	2	4	3	2	1	0	0
F5	13	11	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	2	0	0	0
F6	24	37	0	0	4	0	9	14	4	0	1	4	0
F7	21	24	0	0	0	0	10	6	1	0	1	0	0

*Table 1: Data from the analysis of the informal and formal texts*

The comma was the most used punctuation mark in both informal and formal texts. The average number of commas per article was 37 in informal and 42 in formal texts. However, it depended on the length and complexity of the article. For example, the informal text I3 contained 69 commas while I5 contained only 9 of them. In I3 this meant 41% of used punctuation marks and in I5 it was 24%. From the formal texts, it was the article F2 which contained the most commas (93), and F5 which contained the least – only 11 commas. This meant 40% of all used punctuation marks in F2 and 32% in F5 (Table 1).

Full stop was, as it was already mentioned above, the second most used punctuation mark in both informal and formal texts. The average was 35,14 in informal and 30,43 in formal texts per article. Out of the seven informal texts, in only three of them there were more full stops than the average. The same can be seen in the formal articles (Table 1).

As the third's most used punctuation mark in informal texts, the apostrophe's average appearance was 13,85 per text. However, the text I2 contained only one apostrophe and I7 contained 26 of them. In I2 this meant 2% of all used punctuation marks and in I7 it meant 18%. Among the formal articles, the apostrophe was the fourth most used punctuation mark

with the average 11,57 per article. In the articles F4 and F5 there were only two (4% and 6%), however, F2 contained 30 (13%) apostrophes (Table 1).

The quotation marks were the third in usage in the formal texts, fifth or sixth in the informal ones. The average in formal ones was 13 per article and in informal texts it was only 2 per text. The highest appearance among formal texts was in F2, the lowest in F5. In F2 this meant 12%, in F5 only 3%. What is interesting, is that only two informal texts contained more quotation marks than the average (I6 and I7). In I6 4 quotation marks meant 4%, in I7 8 quotation marks meant 6% of all used punctuation marks. Texts I2, I3, I4 and I5 did not contain any quotation marks (Table 1).

As the Table 1 shows, hyphen was the fourth most used punctuation mark among the informal texts and fifth among the formal. The average was 3,71 per informal text and 9,43 per formal article. From informal texts, I4 contained 8 hyphens while I5 did not contain any of them. The 8 hyphens in I4 meant 11% of the used punctuation marks. From formal articles, only two of them (F1 and F2) contained more hyphens than the average. F1 contained 33 of them, F7 on the other hand contained only 1. In F1 it meant 19% of used punctuation marks while in F7 it meant only 2%.

Colon's average in informal texts was less than 1 per text. Semicolon's average was 1, brackets' was 2 per article, question mark's average was circa 1,14. And the average appearances per text of exclamation mark, dash, ellipsis and slash in informal texts were less than a half (Table 1).

Colon's average in the formal texts was circa 2 and a half per article, dash's average was circa 2, and brackets had the average around 1 appearance per article. Ellipsis's average was less than 1 and semicolon's was less than a half per article. Question and exclamation marks, and slash did not appear in any of the formal articles (Table 1).

To conclude the statistics of this chapter, the average imaginary informal text with 799 words would consist of 37 commas, 35 full stops, 14 apostrophes, 2 quotation marks, 4 hyphens, 1 colon and semicolon, 2 brackets and 1 question mark. The average imaginary formal text with 799 words would consist of 42 commas, 30 full stops, 12 apostrophes, 13 quotation marks, 9 hyphens, 2 colons and dashes, 1 ellipses and brackets would be used once as well (Table 1).

#### 4.3.1 Quotation marks

As it was stated at the beginning of chapter 4, it was expected that the quotation marks are less used in informal texts than in the formal ones. That is because the formal texts were internet newspaper's articles, and therefore, it should contain more quotations of people's speeches than informal texts do.

This statement was confirmed. Formal texts contained 77 more quotation marks than informal texts did. 87% of all quotation marks were found in the formal articles, only 13% in informal texts.

In the theoretical part of this bachelor thesis in the subchapter 2.8, it was stated that Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 847) give single quotation marks special function. That is to indicate a special attention to it. However, in the article I7, Chess uses double quotation for this purpose. For example in the paragraph 'Give yourself permission to make mistakes': "*bought*" or "*return*". As it is an informal text, the author modifies the functions (or visage) of the punctuation marks as he or she wishes.

Sam Levin in the article F1 uses both single and double quotation marks to indicate a special attention to a word. He used single in the title and double in the text. Here are the examples: '*anti-racist*' and "*anti-racist*".

#### 4.3.2 Hyphen

At the beginning of chapter 4, it was stated that it is expected that the hyphen is more used in the informal texts than it is used in formal texts. The reason for that was hyphen's function of connecting two words together and creating new words which tend to be informal.

As it was stated in the theoretical part in the subchapter 2.9, Lukeman sees the hyphen as a creative punctuation mark used to connect two unlikely words together creating new words and language (2006, p. 177). Therefore, it was expected to find more of the hyphens in the informal texts.

However, the outcome of the analysis of the both styles of text shows that the expectation was incorrect. The Table 1 shows that there were 26 hyphens in the informal texts together and 66 of them were in the formal articles. It means that there were 40 more hyphens in the formal than in the informal texts. Also, 72% of the hyphens were used in the formal articles while only 28% in the informal texts.

Although the hyphen creates new words (compounds) and it was stated that these words tend to be informal, the statement was incorrect. As the following examples show, it is possible to create neutral or formal words as well:

Jon Henley used in F2: “*half-joking*”, “*42-year-old*”, “*centre-right*” or “*scandal-tainted*”

Sam Levin, the author of F1, used 33 hyphens in his article. Moreover, he used two in only the title itself: “*California police worked with neo-Nazis to pursue ‘anti-racist’ activists, documents show*”. In his article he uses words as “*anti-racist*”, “*anti-fascist*”, “*neo-Nazis*” several times, therefore, the number of hyphen’s appearances is so high (33) in this article (Table 1).

On the other hand, Jenna, the author of I5, did not use any hyphens in her text “*My Brother’s Husband: A Review*” (Table 1). Therefore, the expectation to find more hyphens in the informal texts was incorrect.

#### 4.3.3 Question and exclamation marks

In the chapter 4 of this thesis it was stated at the beginning that the question and exclamation marks are expected to be more used in the informal texts than in the formal ones. This was because they should not be used in formal writing very often. This was confirmed after the results of the analysis were visible.

Concerning the question mark, it was used 8 times in the informal texts together and it was not used in any of the formal ones. In other words, all of the question marks were used in informal texts (hence 100%) and none in the formal ones (hence 0%) (Table 1).

As it is shown in the Table 1, the text I6 contained 6 question marks. It could be said that this was the most informal text, because the usage of the question mark tends to be informal. For example there were rhetorical questions included in the text I6: “*This seems like an easy thing to do, right?*”, “*Could you really complete your resolution and kick that negative habit?*” However, the question mark was not used always. Jenna M, the author of I6, did not use it in: “*how can I do this? Is this even possible?*”.

Sammi used two question marks in his or her text (I3) as a part of an explanation or when giving an advice. In the paragraph “*Learn to break the molds*” he or she used this punctuation mark in: “*Have you noticed yourself walking on eggshells, even around your friends and family, because of a learned fear of the consequences of saying the wrong thing?*”

Concerning the exclamation marks, it was used only once. It was in the informal text I3 which in other words contains 100% of the exclamation marks. It was not used in any other informal or formal texts (Table 1).

The only author to use the exclamation mark in his or her article was Sammi. Sammi used it in a sentence: “*If you’re not quite there yet, that’s totally okay!*” in the last paragraph of the article I3 called “*Remember the truth*”. This sentence is a useful example of an informal sentence. It contains the apostrophe as some letters have been omitted and the word “*totally*” is rather informal itself.

Although it was expected to find more of these punctuation marks in the informal texts, it was not expected to find none in the formal ones. The expectation was to see at least one or two of the question marks and explanation marks in the quotations of people.

As none of the formal texts contained question or exclamation marks, the statement from the chapter 4 was correct. The question and exclamation marks truly are more often used in the informal texts than in the formal ones.

#### 4.3.4 Comma

As it was stated at the beginning of chapter 4, it was expected that the comma is less used in the informal texts than it is used in the formal ones. This was stated because it is expected that the formal articles will contain more complex sentences than the informal texts.

Although some of the following information were already mentioned above, it is essential to mention them here as well. The comma was used 259 times in the informal texts and 294 times in the formal ones. This means that there were 553 commas altogether (100%). 53% of the commas were in the formal articles and 47% in the informal texts. The average appearance per text was 37 among the informal and 42 among the formal texts. What is interesting, is that among both informal and formal texts only three of each contained more commas than the average (Table 1).

As it was mentioned in the theoretical part of this thesis in the subchapter 2.2, Carter and McCarthy say that the comma is used with adjuncts and discourse markers (2006, p. 844). This was one of the most used function of this punctuation mark in the informal texts. For example:

Tort used in I1: “*In my opinion,*” or “*,however,*”

Cassie used in I2: “*For example,*”

Sammi used in I3: “*That being said,*”, “*Often,*” or “*To start out,*”

Jenna used in I5: “*overall,*”

And Jenna M. used in I6: “*However,*”

Naturally, it was not the only function of the used commas. It was used, for example, to connect clauses, phrases and words, or as part of a number, as well. Here are the examples:

Chess used in I7: “*In order to find out what feels right and what doesn’t, you might like to try different ways of understanding and expressing yourself.*”

Jenna used in I5: “*...brother’s widower, Mike, shows up...*”

And Brittany used in I4: “*10,000*”

On the other hand, concerning the comma’s usage in the formal articles, it was used to specify who someone is, in numbers, and as Carter and McCarthy (2006, p. 844) say, to indicate a direct speech. For example:

Sam Levin used in F1: “*Steve Grippi, chief deputy district attorney prosecuting the case in Sacramento, ...*”

Jon Henley used in F2: “*340,00 people*”

Jon Henley used in F2: “*... to restore confidence*”, *she said.*”

However, the comma was not the only punctuation mark used in numbers. Damian Carrington used in F3 both a comma and a full stop in a number. For example:

“*4,300 vacancies*” but

“*12.5% of vacancies*”

The comma was of course used to connect words, phrases and clauses within a sentence in the formal articles, as well. For example:

Sam Levin used in I1: “*... disturbing the peace, conspiracy, assault unlawful assembly ...*”

Richard Partington used in F4: “*An increase in fuel imports and lower levels of fuel exports were the main culprit in pushing up the trade deficit in the final three months of 2017, made worse by the rising oil price, which has driven up the cost of importing crude to Britain.*”



Finally, the statistics at the beginning of this chapter (4.3.4) confirmed the expectation that the comma is less used in the informal texts than it is used in the formal ones.

#### 4.3.5 Most used punctuation marks

As it was stated at the beginning of chapter 4, it was expected that the most used punctuation marks are the comma, the full stop and the apostrophe in both informal and formal texts.

It was already mentioned that the comma was the most used of all the punctuation marks in both informal and formal articles. The full stop was the second most used and the apostrophe was the third in informal texts. Among the formal articles, full stop was the second most used punctuation mark as well, but the quotation marks were the third with the apostrophe being fourth (Table 1).

Altogether, there were 459 full stops. 54% (246) of them were found in the informal texts and 46% (213) in formal ones. In the informal text I3, there were 71 full stops and it was the most of all the informal texts. The article F2 contained the most of the full stops among the formal articles, it was 54 full stops. In the I3 there were twice more of the full stops than the average (Table 1).

Altogether, there were 178 apostrophes. 54% (97) of them were contained in the informal texts and 46% (81) in the formal ones. Four (I1, I3, I6 and I7) of the informal texts contained more apostrophes than the average. Among the formal articles, the situation was different, only two (F1 and F2) articles contained more apostrophes than the average (Table 1).

The examples of how the comma was used practically were shown in the previous subchapter (4.3.4). Concerning the full stop, in the theoretical part of this thesis in the subchapter 2.1 it is mentioned, that Carter and McCarthy say that the full stop marks not only the end of a sentence but of a sentence fragment (2006, p. 839). However, in the chosen informal texts, the full stops were mainly used to indicate only the end of a sentence. For example:

Sammi used it in I3: *“A therapist will be able to help you walk through your own emotions about what happened and understand why your abuser may have taken the actions that they did in a safe, non-judgemental environment.”*

Among the formal articles, the full stop was used similarly but not only. It was used to indicate the end of a sentence in the article and the end of a quoted sentence. Additionally, it was used in numbers. For example:

Severin Carrel used it in F7: “*The first minister also claimed that the Scottish government had published the material seen by the Guardian.*”

Richard Partington used it in F4: “*James Knightley, chief international economist at ING Bank, said: “The UK continues to underperform other developed market economies, growing at around half the rate of the US and the eurozone.”*”

John Henley used in F2: “*... just 2.5%...*”

Concerning the usage of the apostrophe, John Seely, as it was stated in the theoretical part of this thesis in the subchapter 2.7, gives apostrophe two functions. The first is to mark that one or more letters have been omitted, while the second is showing possessions (2013, p. 17). Both of the functions occur in both of the styles. The difference is that in the formal articles, the apostrophe instead of omitted letters occurs only in quotations. The reason for that is that contradictions are informal. Here are the examples, first from the informal then formal texts:

Jenna used in I5: “*... to explore his late husband’s past.*”

Also, Jenna in I5 used: “*... and she didn’t understand what ...*”

Rebecca Smithers used in F5: “*... one of Europe’s busiest air...*”

Daniel Boffey and Jennifer Rankin used in F6: “*”and we haven’t a minute to lose... ”*”

Carter and McCarthy add a function of showing special plurals as in the names of firms, shops and businesses, or in references to decades (2006, p. 848). Jenna M. used this in the text (I6) “*New Year’s Resolutions*”. Although she used it slightly differently, not as the names of firms nor as references to decades:

*“If you want to continue to get good grades in university, and you already get good grades, then you are more likely to continue to get A’s and high B’s.”*

Table 1 has confirmed that the most used punctuation marks were the comma, the full stop and the apostrophe in both informal and formal texts. Although the apostrophe was the fourth among the formal articles.

#### 4.3.6 Punctuation occurrence

As it was stated at the beginning of chapter 4, it was expected that the punctuation is less used in the informal texts than it is in the formal ones. The reason for that was the expectation of

less complex and difficult sentences in the informal texts and less quotation marks or other punctuation marks.

Overall, there were 1476 punctuation marks used in the texts. 683 of them were found in the informal texts and 793 of them were found in the formal ones. In percentage terms, 46% of the used punctuation marks were in the informal texts and 54% were in the formal ones. The average number of punctuation marks used in a single informal text was 97,57. There were only three texts which contained less punctuation marks than the average. On the other hand, the average number of punctuation marks used in a single formal article was higher than in the informal texts. It was 113,28 punctuation marks per article. However, only three of the articles contained more than the average (Table 1).

Concerning the complexity of sentences and differences between the informal and formal texts, it was possible to find complex sentences in both styles of text. However, among the informal texts there were more simpler sentences with a full stop at the end than in the formal articles. The statistics confirm this with 54% of full stops being in the informal texts. Here are some examples of complex sentences used in the texts, it is visible that there are various punctuation marks used in the example from the formal article:

Chess used in I7: *“Learn about different gender identities, read stories from people who identify in different ways, and, if possible, talk to people who are genderqueer, nonbinary, or otherwise not cisgender.”*

Sam Levin used in F1: *“”It is shocking and really angering to see the level of collusion and the amount to which the police covered up for the Nazis,” said Yvette Felarca, a Berkeley teacher and anti-fascist organizer charged with assault and rioting after participating in the June 2016 Sacramento rally, where she said she was stabbed and bludgeoned in the head.”*

To support the conclusion that there was more punctuation used in the formal articles, here is an example of a sentence from an informal text. The sentence is quite difficult to read and if there was a comma used, it would be easier for the reader.

Jenna used in I5: *“I suppose the reason I liked this is it showed that while it is possible for a person to change their hateful thoughts it isn't an easy process.”*

## 5. Conclusion

This bachelor thesis focused on the theme of punctuation in English. In the theoretical part there were a full stop, a comma, a question mark and an exclamation mark, a colon, a semicolon, an apostrophe, quotation marks, a hyphen, a dash, brackets, an ellipsis, and a slash explained. The aim was to show how they are or should be used. Briefly, there was shown the difference between the formal and informal English.

The practical part showed the outcomes of the analysis of the chosen articles. There were stated six hypotheses (a-f) and then they were either confirmed or refuted. One was that the quotation marks are less used in the informal texts which was confirmed. The second was that the hyphen is more used in the informal texts which was refuted. The third was that the question and exclamation marks are more used in the informal texts which was confirmed. The fourth was that the comma is less used in the informal texts which was confirmed. The fifth was that the most used punctuation marks are the comma, the full stop and the apostrophe in both informal and formal texts. This was mainly confirmed, however, partly refuted among the formal texts. And the last one was that the punctuation is less used in the informal texts which was confirmed.

Hopefully, the findings summarised in this bachelor thesis will bring benefits and advice not only to its author but to other student or teachers of English as well.

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Analysed texts

#### (I1) Review of Dystopia by Megadeth

By Tort (TheAtomicBlade)

"Holy shit." Those are the only words that came to my mind when I listened to thrash metal legends Megadeth's new album *Dystopia*. The 15th album by the legendary band formed by Dave Mustaine clocks in at a relatively modest 50 minutes. But every single one of those minutes counts. In my opinion, this album is a return to the classic thrash metal genre Megadeth helped pioneer back in the 80s, while maintaining relevance to the modern world.

The beginning track, *The Threat is Real*, begins with a rather haunting Asian/Middle Eastern style vocal cover, before breaking into rather aggressive guitars. Dave Mustaine, along with new axeman Kiko Loureiro, don't waste any time in making you start shaking your head to the insane riff. The two solos in the first two minutes have a very distinctive Asian influenced feel. A cheeky throwback to their classic Holy War song ( off the *Rust in Peace* Album) in my opinion. However, unlike a lot of callbacks, it doesn't feel forced. Chris Adler was the recording drummer, and he wasted no time in playing his rolls that perfectly compliment the guitar genius that is Mustaine, while also giving the listener something to rock their head to.

The next few tracks, *Dystopia*, *Fatal Illusion* and *Death from Within* maintain this high paced aggression. I don't think anyone in

the studio had anything but good old thrash metal on their minds while recording or writing. The bass line by Dave Ellefson is a bit clearer here, in my opinion, giving a nice little boost. Mustaine and Loureiro don't disappoint either, treating the listener to brilliantly seamless soloing and powerful chugging on the rhythm sound. However, *Fatal Illusion* has a few solos that feel a bit forced, between verses. They are great, but I feel that adding them a bit later would have given the song a more complete feel.

*Bullet to the Brain* takes a U-turn in terms of intros. The classical acoustic guitar opening with a marching beat drum made me double check I had the right album on. But about 25 seconds in you don't need to worry. This song has a much greater level of melody than the starting our. The tempo is a bit slower too. However, it provides a great insight into the musical talent of this band. It doesn't feel out of place, although the lyrics leave a lot to be desired, when compared to the previous songs. Chris Adler, however, is phenomenal. His drumming reminds me of some Lamb of God (which he is a member of) songs and that is an interesting feeling. The two bands (Megadeth and Lamb of God) have different sounds, and in this case they have created a combination that has the brutal strength of Megadeth's thrash metal, while blending the groove sound Lamb of God seems to enjoy. Further, the rolls and fills of the previous songs are replaced with a stronger double bass drum and damn it

just shows his prowess. The main solo of this song, in my opinion, the best on this record. Starting slow, and then accelerating into the style that has been previously shown on this album, it doesn't feel forced, flows beautifully AND just shows off how well the 56-year-old Mustaine knows his way around the guitar.

The rest of album is great, but is not outstanding, with the exception of *The Emperor*. A surprisingly bouncy guitar and drum riff made me jump and wiggle in my seat. Obviously intended to be a diss at world leaders, this song has a fun feeling in an otherwise serious album. The lyrics are openly anti-politicians, but the chorus is where the punch is. Dave Mustaine singing "You look so perfect, but everybody knows, They're petrified to say the emperor has no robes, So bloody perfect, but everybody knows, They're just so petrified that the emperor has no clothes, Just so you know, That's how it goes" is hilarious to say the least. Not to mention, given the present political climate of the world, it cannot be more accurate.

Overall, this album is outstanding. Megadeth have proven that they are not washed out and definitely deserved the Grammy they won this year (2017). *Dystopia* is a return to the roots of Megadeth, while also displaying the band's growth. I personally have never been Megadeth's biggest fan, but this album is one I adore. If you are a newbie to thrash metal, this is one you want to listen to along with the classic albums (such as Metallica's *Master of Puppets*, Slayer's *Reign in Blood*, and Megadeth's very own *Rust in Peace*). I highly

recommend you use headphones while listening to the album in order to fully appreciate the drums and bass that may be slightly understated on speakers.

## (12) **Emotional abuse vs emotional neglect**

By Cassie (Cassado)

While both equally damaging, emotional abuse and emotional neglect are two different things with their own set of characteristics. Both terms are related to emotional distress but the actions which cause the distress are different. Read on to learn more about the differences and effects of emotional abuse and neglect.

The difference between emotional abuse and emotional neglect is that emotional abuse entails doing something and emotional neglect is the absence of something. Emotional abuse could include things such as name-calling, criticizing, and manipulation, while emotional neglect in an instance could be the absence of affection or emotional support.

Emotional abuse is often seen in romantic relationships or within family relationships. Emotional neglect does occur in romantic relationships but it is also commonly seen within a parent-child relationship.

For example, Person A may be in an emotionally abusive relationship with a partner who uses name-calling and manipulation in an effort to control them while Person B is in an emotionally neglectful relationship with a parent who does not display affection or provide emotional support.



Emotional abuse and emotional neglect have similar yet slightly different effects. People who have experienced either one may have an all around sadness and low self-esteem. Survivors of emotional abuse may feel like they cannot leave their abuser. They are likely to feel depressed and withdrawn from people or things they are interested in.

People who have experienced emotional neglect may feel numbness or emptiness. In a parent-child relationship, the child may feel this emptiness because they haven't had a positive emotional relationship. Additionally, children may have difficulty with relationships in their teen and adult years. For example, a daughter who is emotionally neglected or abused by her father may wish to have a father figure in her life. When emotional neglect is normalized to a child, they may neglect themselves and grow up to neglect their future relationships. However, many children have different positive influences that help to prevent this from occurring.

Though emotional abuse and neglect have different characteristics and effects, the impact is often long lived. People who have suffered through emotional abuse or neglect may benefit from working on similar aspects of their lives, such as self-care or self-soothe activities. It may also help to talk to someone, whether it is a professional or a trusted individual.

### (13) **Healing from an abusive relationship**

By Sammi (Orenda.)

Leaving an abusive relationship is, without a doubt, a cathartic experience. Immediately following the end of the relationship, many people will experience feelings of relief brought about by the end of the situation, as well as a feeling of empowerment that comes with the realization that your life is once again your own. As the separation begins to sink in and feel more permanent, however, fears and hesitations may begin to set in. Among these, perhaps the most common is trying to figure out what comes next. When the world becomes your oyster after months or years of control, it can be daunting to figure out what to do with your new-found freedom. While some of these tips can be applied to survivors of any abusive relationship, this article will focus on best practices that I learned during the healing process from a psychologically abusive relationship.

#### **Process what you have been through**

While this is the foremost step that you need to take following the end of an abusive relationship, it is easily the most difficult and the one that will continue on throughout the entirety of the healing process. When all is said and done, you will more than likely want to leave everything from your relationship in the past and move on to having a normal life again. You may not want to relive what you experienced, but not taking the time to work through the traumas that you endured will be detrimental to your ability to move past it in the long run.

This is absolutely not something that should be undertaken on your own. Lean on people throughout this season of life and talk through things with them. If it's an option for you, seeking professional help can be extremely advantageous. A therapist will be able to help you walk through your own emotions about what happened and understand why your abuser may have taken the actions that they did in a safe, non-judgmental environment. However, talking to a close friend or family member can also be beneficial, as they know you at a more personal level. You may also want to consider seeking out a support group for survivors of abuse in your area. Finding others who have been through similar circumstances in their own lives will provide you with a safe place to talk about your experiences with people who will have a better understanding than anyone else about what you went through. If possible, finding a way to combine some or all of these is an ideal way to approach this process.

That being said, there will be things that you will want or need to work through on your own. When thinking through these things, take steps to ensure that you are in a place where you feel safe and in a stable headspace. Getting your feelings out in a creative way, such as writing about it or drawing pictures to express your emotions, can be a great way to take this on. You can also talk to your therapist to get ideas for healthy ways to focus on your emotions without negatively affecting your mental health.

### **Get to know yourself again**

Depending on the nature of the abuse you endured during the relationship, you may find yourself feeling a sense of disconnection from yourself. While it is possible for victims of any form of abuse to experience these feelings, it is more common in those who have faced emotional/mental abuse. Often, these types of abusers will break down the person that you were with a goal of building you back up into the person that they want you to be. When all is said and done, it can be difficult to get back to the person that you were. It's just not as simple as flipping a switch and going back to your old life.

As scary as this feeling is, it doesn't necessarily have to be a bad thing. Take some time to really get to know yourself again, starting at your core and working your way back up. Think about your favorite things about who you are as well as the goals you have for the person you want to become and focus on building up those qualities in yourself. While it's also important to focus on eliminating the negative qualities that your abuser may have instilled in you, allow yourself to put the majority of your efforts into the positive aspects of change. Not only will doing so keep you from dwelling on the impact of your abuse, it may help minimize the work for ridding yourself of negativity, as the positive changes will begin to overtake the things you don't like naturally.

### **Learn to break the molds**

In any relationship, it's typical for patterns to develop that impact you as an individual, as

well as your interactions with your partner and others as a whole. While healthy relationships tend to generate positive changes, abusive relationships can often lead to the creation of unhealthy habits under the pretense that it's what is best for you.

Take a minute to examine some of the patterns you see in your life today. Have you noticed yourself walking on eggshells, even around your friends and family, because of a learned fear of the consequences of saying the wrong thing? Have you stopped doing things that you enjoy because they weren't acceptable in your relationship? Often, individuals who are in an abusive relationship will adopt some of these habits as a method of self-preservation. If you learn to say and do everything according to your partner's rules, it serves as a preventative measure against the abuse. Although this is a completely understandable defense mechanism, it is vital that you learn to break the molds that you have been pushed into following the end of the relationship.

At the beginning of this process, this may seem like a nearly impossible task. While it isn't something that can be accomplished overnight, you can start breaking it down into smaller, more manageable chunks. To start out, try to pinpoint the three most important molds that you want to break. Perhaps you want to stop being afraid to disagree with someone. Maybe you want to feel comfortable going out with your friends without feeling like you're doing something wrong. Whatever those goals are, push yourself every day to do one thing that challenges the routines you've been forced

into. If it helps, you can even ask a friend or family member to help keep you accountable and help you track your progress.

### **Acknowledge the times that you're not okay**

Those who have not suffered from abuse have a tendency to assume that things automatically become brighter following separation from the abuser. While this is true to an extent, there will be times where you find yourself struggling. Instinct may tell you to shove these feelings to the side and carry on with the mentality that there is no reason not to be okay. But, allowing yourself to feel whatever emotions come up is essential to the overall healing process.

Finding positive outlets for your emotions and giving yourself permission to feel whatever you need to can be incredibly therapeutic. If you feel angry, find an activity that allows you to let out some of your aggression, such as going to batting cages or screaming into a pillow. If you're sad, allow yourself to cry or call someone in your support system to talk with. The most important thing is getting your feelings out in a healthy way, as it is the only way you can truly move on and heal.

### **Remember the truth**

At the end of the day, a breakup is a breakup. While your relationship may have been toxic, you may still find yourself missing your ex. This may seem questionable at first, but it's actually a fairly normal response. You did fall for them for a reason, after all. When this happens, you will likely find yourself focusing on the positive aspects of their character and

reminiscing about the good memories that you have of your relationship. Although these thoughts are normal, the danger lies in exaggerating the positive to the point that it overshadows the negative. Following this thought process can lead to a temptation to get back with your ex, convincing yourself that things might be different this time around.

When these feelings occur, it is important to begin combating them instantly. Depending on how far along you are in the healing process, it may be beneficial to think about specific things that your abuser did. While this is the quickest way to shut down any temptations, this tactic should only be used if you have worked through enough of the trauma that you can think about it without triggering any negative moods or behaviors. If you're not quite there yet, that's totally okay! If thinking about specifics isn't something that can work for you, try focusing on how your ex made you feel (scared, helpless, etc.) and compare that to what a healthy relationship looks like. Perhaps you could even use a positive relationship you see modeled through people in your life to examine the contrasts between those and the toxic behaviors of your ex. Continue to do this until the temptation to go back begins to fade. You may find yourself having to do this often in the early days, but the need will lessen as time goes on.

While healing from an abusive relationship can seem impossible, you are capable of moving past it. You and your life are not defined by what happened to you. As someone two years out of an abusive relationship, I can say with

confidence that things will get better and you will be able to use your experiences, as negative as they were, to positively impact your life in the future. Remember this: you are not a victim; you are a survivor.

(I4) **Myelomeningocele**

Brittany (.Brittany.)

Myelomeningocele is the most serious and common form of Spina Bifida, which occurs in 3-4 out of every 10,000 live births. [Source]

Myelomeningocele is caused when the fetus' spine isn't fully formed during the first 28 days of gestation; this is usually before a mom finds out that she's pregnant. Some research suggests that Spina Bifida may occur if the fetus doesn't get enough Folic Acid during the first six weeks of pregnancy. Doctors recommend that pregnant women should eat more greens and nuts. Myelomeningocele is when a little bit of the baby's spinal cord and nerves protrude from their back and then become a visible disc. When this happens, the baby loses the fluid that surrounds the nervous system, which effects the communication between the brain and the spinal cord.

Doctors can discover Myelomeningocele before the baby is born. During routine visits and ultrasounds, they can spot if the baby is developing Myelomeningocele. Pregnant women get a blood test called Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), which tests how much AFP the baby has in their liver. With this number, doctors may then discover if there's something wrong with the fetus.

Some babies live healthy normal lives with all types of Spina Bifida. Some live normal adulthoods, some participate in modified sports, and others may have to take control of their own bladder with self-catheterization.

In June 2017, Canadian doctors attempted a surgical procedure that has never been done in Canada before. A team of Doctors, Surgeons, Neonatologists, Anesthesiologists, Fetal Medicine Specialists, Cardiologists, and Nurses from Mount Siani Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Kids, both located in Toronto, Ontario, came together to perform an in-utero surgery on a 25-week fetus that had Myelomeningocele. This is the first time this type of surgery was done without the mom having to go to the United States. This procedure has been done several times in the US.

The day of the procedure, the mother was put under a general anesthetic, and with a small, fine needle the baby was sedated and temporarily paralysed. The surgeons then made a small incision in the mother's abdomen, being careful that they didn't hit the placenta. The surgeon then carefully removed the Myelomeningocele sac and repaired the spine. After the procedure, the mom stayed in hospital for 4-5 days to make sure that there were no complications.

The little baby was born pre-term on August 19 via a C-Section (Caesarean Section). The baby hasn't needed any type of medical attention since then.

This type of surgery can only be done between 19 and 27 weeks. Before 19 weeks the baby is very unstable as it's still developing all the vital organs and the baby is too small to be able to perform this type of operation. After 27 weeks, the surgery is a lot more risky, as the baby starts to breathe on its own, and their brains start to develop more.

### (15) My Brother's Husband: A Review

Jenna (~Abibliophobe~)

*My Brother's Husband* is a manga series written and illustrated by Gengoroh Tagame. It is set in Tokyo and it follows the story of Yaichi who is surprised when his estranged brother's widower, Mike, shows up at their doorstep. Mike arrives in hopes of being able to explore his late husband's past. The story takes off from there and explores a lot of misconceptions and prejudice that people have about the LGBTQ+ community. It also gives us a look at Japanese gay culture and shows how plenty of people are closeted.

I think one of the things that I liked most about this manga is that it shows how Yaichi battles with the homophobic thoughts he has due, in part, to Japanese culture. He knows that his thoughts are inaccurate and are wrong but it is hard for him to let go of some of the negative thoughts he has since they were ingrained in him. I suppose the reason I liked this is it showed that while it is possible for a person to change their hateful thoughts it isn't an easy process. It also shows that a person has to be open to changing these thoughts which a lot of people are unwilling to do.

I also really liked the relationship that Mike ended up forming with both Yaichi and Yaichi's daughter, Kana. Yaichi was very hesitant to accept Mike into his home but by the time I reached volume two of the series it was evident that he wanted to be friends with Mike, at least to an extent. Kana and Mike hit it off right away and I found her immediate acceptance of him quite heartwarming. I also thought it showed how accepting children truly are unless they are taught to be otherwise. Kana was unaware that she had an uncle and she didn't understand what it meant for him to have a husband but she slowly started to learn about it. There were also scenes where Kana had to face the bigotry and hatred that exist in the world pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community.

The author of this series did a really good job of showing the differences that exist in how the Japanese feel about the the LGBTQ+ community and how western cultures feel about it. Overall, I thought this manga was really adorable and sweet while also dealing with some complex and important topics.

There are currently only two volumes available for this series that have been translated into English. I believe that there are only three volumes available so it might be a while before volume three becomes available in English. I think that it is still worth reading and, in my opinion, volume 2 didn't end with a huge cliffhanger which makes waiting for the next volumes a bit easier.

## (I6) New Year's Resolutions

By Jenna M. (Fernweh.)

Each November and December, we decide on our New Year resolutions, saying we will quit or change something that is detrimental to our well-being starting from January 1st. This seems like an easy thing to do, right? Telling yourself "I will begin doing..." or that "I will stop..." at the beginning of each year. Some people even stop doing one thing that might be harmful and begin something that is healthy or beneficial to them.

Some common New Year resolutions include: Quitting smoking, reducing or eliminating alcohol intake, eat healthier, exercise more, setting weight-loss goals.

There are quite a few people, myself included, who stick to that resolution for the first week or weekend; but then get back into the habit they'd promised themselves they would give up. A very small fraction of people have stuck with their resolutions throughout the entire year. In a world that has several billion people, that's just several million individuals when you really think about it.

The main issue is that a lot of people set unrealistic goals for themselves and the most important thing is to think realistically. Could you really complete your resolution and kick that negative habit?

If you want to continue to get good grades in university, and you already get good grades, then you are more likely to continue to get A's and high B's. If you want to move out on your own, but can't afford a place and you're

looking for a job, then it is less likely to happen within a few months or even a year.

Dreams play a major factor in New Year's resolutions and you can't get too carried away by them. I am a big dreamer who set goals; but then I take a step back and begin to ask questions such as "how can I do this? Is this even possible" and then begin to feel discouraged. This is one of the reasons why I've been unable to carry through with a resolution year after year.

Another thing you can try to do to help keep your New Year resolution is to consider how hard it will be to stick with it for an extended period of time. If you have a great support system to help you to commit to the resolution or to kick a negative habit, then take advantage of it. Begin by telling people what your New Year's resolution is and have them help you along the way.

You don't have to go through with it alone; ask your family, friends, and colleagues to look out for you and make sure you are held accountable. They will help to make sure you stick to those resolutions and motivate you when you feel like giving up.

Another important part of sticking to your New Year resolution is to keep track of it. Begin by buying a planner or calendar before you commit to it. By writing down a time and what you want to get done on that day, it will encourage you to do it. It is especially beneficial if you have a fitness goal. Writing down things such as "do the elliptical for

twenty minutes, walk for forty minutes" encourages you to do it.

Keeping a journal or a blog would also be helpful; record your thoughts and progress on a daily or weekly basis. Did you do well or did you struggle? Was it hard to not go against your resolution that day or week? What did you do to fight the struggle and did you find it helpful? Perhaps you had to make a little adjustment so making a note of it would be useful. It is okay to make adjustments, as long as it'll help you stick with your resolution.

Making a to-do list can also be helpful, especially if your resolution is something you have to work towards on a daily basis or you want to be more productive. Plan out the day and how you'll commit to your plans. When you complete each task, cross it off or use a yellow highlighter. At the end of the each day, you can look at it and feel like you've accomplished something and feel good about yourself.

Committing to a New Year's resolution isn't easy; they take time and work before becoming a natural part of our lives. It may take weeks, months, or even years, for it to happen. However, hard work will pay off if it's beneficial to you over the course of many, many years, such as your health.

### (17) **Exploring your gender identity**

By Chess (Narrative.)

For most people, their innate sense of gender is consistent with the gender they were assigned at birth – in most cases, either male or female.

This is known as being *cisgender*. Although this is often seen as the default, there is a lot more diversity in terms of gender than many people realise. In recent years there has been an increase in the visibility of gender diverse individuals, and an improvement in general knowledge of what it means to be something other than cisgender. Still, it can be difficult and confusing to question your gender identity, especially for those who don't have access to relevant resources. This article aims to provide some general advice on how to safely and positively explore your gender identity.

### **Do as much research as you can**

Learn about different gender identities, read stories from people who identify in different ways, and, if possible, talk to people who are genderqueer, nonbinary, or otherwise not cisgender. It can help to keep a list of terms and labels that you feel attracted to or a connection with during this process. You could even look for fictional representations of different identities in books, movies, video games, or anywhere else, but be aware that these representations may not always be accurate. Remember that if you choose to use a label to define or explain your identity (and there is absolutely no obligation for you to do so), it can be as simple or as complex as you like. Someone who identifies as simply nonbinary is every bit as valid as somebody who identifies as a demifluid agenderflux person.

### **Try different things**

In order to find out what feels right and what doesn't, you might like to try different ways of understanding and expressing yourself. Try different labels, pronouns, names, styles, and whatever else you feel comfortable with. You could start by saying to yourself "I am [label]" or "I am not [label]" to see how it feels. If it would be safe to do so, you could also ask somebody you're close to if they would be able to refer to you using these new labels, names, or pronouns (even if only in certain circumstances, such as when there's nobody else around). You could even try something such as going to a local LGBT+ group where you will find like-minded people who will be able to offer support and advice, or going by a new name or pronouns in situations where you're relatively anonymous (such as online or giving your name when ordering a coffee). Also, keep in mind that even if you do realise that you're not cisgender, you don't have to change your name, pronouns, appearance, or anything else about yourself. Do so if it feels right, but don't feel obligated to in order to be valid.

### **Don't rush the process**

It can be tempting to latch onto the first label that you feel a connection with, but remember that it may not be the one that best fits you. Perhaps you just haven't found the right label for you, or perhaps there isn't a "right" label for you and you may have to invent something yourself. There is plenty of time to discover yourself, and you don't have to have all the answers right away. It's okay to use broad terms to describe your identity, even if that



term is just “questioning”. There’s no time limit, so take as long as you need in order to feel comfortable with and confident in your identity.

### **Give yourself permission to make mistakes**

During this process you may find yourself changing your labels a lot, and it’s important to recognise that there’s nothing wrong with that. Sometimes people outgrow labels, or realise that there’s something that fits them better, or otherwise decide not to identify in a particular way anymore, and that’s totally fine. Claiming a label doesn’t need to be a permanent thing. If you want to change how you identify, then you have every right to do so. Think of it like a shopping cart: you might put different items into it while you’re shopping, but if you change your mind you can always return them to the shelf. The same is true for labels: if you no longer feel like a particular label fits you, or that you don’t want to be known by it, then you can simply return it and find something else that you prefer. Even if you feel like you’ve already “bought” an identity, be aware that it’s never too late to “return” it. You can change your name, pronouns, labels, appearance, and anything else as many times as you feel you need to in order to be happy with who you are.

### **Explore every avenue that you can**

Even if you have previously dismissed a particular identity or label, you can always come back to it later if you realise that it does apply to you after all. It can be easy to listen to thoughts such as “This doesn’t sound like me”

or “I don’t want to identify this way”, but those are often superficial - and if you dig a little bit deeper you might find that the term does have some relevance to you. Although it may feel strange at first, exploring avenues you might otherwise have ignored will ultimately give you a better sense of your identity.

The most important thing to remember is that no matter where you end up, the journey is worthwhile. Even if you decide that you are in fact cisgender, you will still know yourself better than you did before you started questioning. If you decide that you want to identify as genderqueer, nonbinary, transgender, or anything else under the umbrella of “not cisgender”, there may be people who don’t understand or respect your identity, but there will also be people who will love and respect you for being true to yourself.

### **(F1) California police worked with neo-Nazis to pursue 'anti-racist' activists, documents show**

Officers expressed sympathy with white supremacists and sought their help to target counter-protesters after a violent 2016 rally, according to court documents

Sam Levin *in San Francisco*

Fri 9 Feb 2018 12.00 GMT

California police investigating a violent white nationalist event worked with white supremacists in an effort to identify counter-protesters and sought the prosecution of activists with “anti-racist” beliefs, court documents show.

The records, which also showed officers expressing sympathy with white supremacists and trying to protect a neo-Nazi organizer's identity, were included in a court briefing from three anti-fascist activists who were charged with felonies after protesting at a Sacramento rally. The defendants were urging a judge to dismiss their case and accused California police and prosecutors of a "cover-up and collusion with the fascists".

Defense lawyers said the case at the state capital offers the latest example of US law enforcement appearing to align with neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups while targeting anti-fascist activists and Donald Trump protesters after violent clashes.

"It is shocking and really angering to see the level of collusion and the amount to which the police covered up for the Nazis," said Yvette Felarca, a Berkeley teacher and anti-fascist organizer charged with assault and rioting after participating in the June 2016 Sacramento rally, where she said she was stabbed and bludgeoned in the head. "The people who were victimized by the Nazis were then victimized by the police and the district attorneys."

Steve Grippi, chief deputy district attorney prosecuting the case in Sacramento, vehemently denied the claims of bias in an email to the Guardian, alleging that anti-fascist stabbing victims have been uncooperative and noting that his office has filed charges against one member of the Traditionalist Workers

Party (TWP), the neo-Nazi group that organized the rally.

Some California highway patrol (CHP) investigation records, however, raise questions about the police's investigative tactics and communication with the TWP.

Felarca's attorneys obtained numerous examples of CHP officers working directly with the TWP, often treating the white nationalist group as victims and the anti-fascists as suspects.

The TWP is "intimately allied with neo-Nazi and other hardline racist organizations" and "advocates for racially pure nations", according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Its leaders have praised Trump, and the group claimed to bring more than 100 people to the Charlottesville white supremacist rally, where a counter-protester was killed.

In one phone call with Doug McCormack, identified by police as the TWP affiliate who acquired the permit for the Sacramento rally, CHP investigator Donovan Ayres warned him that police might have to release his name in response to a public records requests. The officer said he would try to protect McCormack.

"I'm gonna suggest that we hold that or redact your name or something until this gets resolved," Ayres told McCormack, adding that he didn't know who had requested records of the permit and noting, "If I did, I would tell you."

Ayres's reports noted that McCormack was armed at the rally with a knife.

The officer's write-up about an African American anti-fascist activist included a photo of him at the hospital after the rally and noted that he had been stabbed in the abdomen, chest and hand.

Ayres, however, treated the protester like a suspect in the investigation. The police investigator recommended the man be charged with 11 offenses, including disturbing the peace, conspiracy, assault, unlawful assembly and wearing a mask to evade police.

As evidence, Ayres provided Facebook photos of the man holding up his fist. The officer wrote that the man's "Black Power salute" and his "support for anti-racist activism" demonstrated his "intent and motivation to violate the civil rights" of the neo-Nazi group. He was ultimately not charged.

Ayres's report also noted Felarca's political activism in great detail, referencing her activism on behalf of students of color and women's rights protests.

"This is a textbook case of a political witch-hunt and selective prosecution," Shanta Driver, one of Felarca's attorneys, said in an interview.

Officers also worked with TWP member Derik Punneo to try to identify anti-fascist activists, recordings revealed. Officers interviewed Punneo in jail after he was arrested for an unrelated domestic violence charge. Audio recordings captured investigators saying they

brought photos to show him, hoping he could help them identify anti-fascist activists.

The officers said, "We're pretty much going after them," and assured him: "We're looking at you as a victim."

Ayres's report noted that Punneo was armed with a knife at the neo-Nazi rally and that one stabbing victim told officers he believed Punneo was responsible. Using video footage, Ayres also noted that Punneo was "in the vicinity" of another victim at the time he was injured, but the officer said the evidence ultimately wasn't clear.

Punneo and McCormack, who could not be reached for comment, were not charged. Ayres's report included images and names of three other TWP-affiliated men who he said were armed with knives, but who also have faced no charges.

The CHP declined to comment.

In a response filed on Thursday, prosecutors said "every assertion" in the motion to dismiss is "inaccurate or fabricated" and accused Felarca's lawyers of using the filing to "make a political statement". The response also repeatedly blamed the stabbing victims for ignoring the district attorney's inquiries: "Despite the fact that we have not gained the cooperation of these victims, the investigation to hold their attackers responsible continues forward."

Prosecutors also said the charges were based on video evidence and argued that "no one is beneath the protection of the law, no matter

how repugnant his or her rhetoric or misguided his or her ideals”.

Allegations of police bias and collusion with neo-Nazis have emerged in similar cases across the US. Last year, US prosecutors targeting anti-Trump protesters in Washington DC relied on video evidence from a far-right group with a record of deceptive tactics.

At an Oregon “alt-right” event, police allowed a member of a rightwing militia-style group to help officers arrest an anti-fascist activist.

Police in Charlottesville were widely accused of standing by as Nazis attacked protesters, and a black man who was badly beaten by white supremacists was later charged with a felony.

Sam Menefee-Libey, an activist who advocated for protesters charged for Inauguration Day rallies last year, said the government has repeatedly gone to great lengths to target anti-fascists: “We have patterns of acknowledged and unacknowledged overlaps between the interest of ultra-right nationalist organizations and the police and prosecutors’ offices.”

**(F2) Iceland's new leader: 'People don't trust our politicians'**

Katrín Jakobsdóttir says her goal is to restore confidence as she becomes Iceland’s fourth prime minister in two years

Jon Henley *in Reykjavik*

Fri 9 Feb 2018 11.48 GMT

By the age of eight, Katrín Jakobsdóttir was reading Agatha Christie. A couple of decades later, she wrote her masters dissertation on the works of Arnaldur Indridason, a king of Nordic noir. In literature, crime is her thing.

It is a specialism that might stand her in good stead in her new real-life job, as prime minister of Iceland and, at 42, Europe’s youngest female leader. “Crime fiction,” she said, only half-joking, “is about not really trusting anyone. And that’s generally how politics works.”

Brought almost to its knees by the 2008 crisis, Iceland has since been rocked by a succession of ethical and financial scandals that have left voters deeply disaffected by what many see as the endemic – and largely unpunished – cronyism and corruption of their political and business classes.

As a consequence, Jakobsdóttir, a slight, driven 42-year-old is the country’s fourth prime minister in two years. A socialist, a feminist and an environmentalist, she heads the Left-Green Movement and has bold policy goals on climate change, gender equality and public services.

But perhaps her most daunting challenge will be to change this north Atlantic island’s political culture, and to restore the confidence of its 340,000 people in their politicians – while heading an unlikely coalition with the two conservative parties most closely associated with those scandals.

“A lot has happened in Icelandic politics, and people really don’t trust Icelandic politicians,”

Jakobsdóttir said in an interview in her central Reykjavik office. “I can’t blame them. But now we need to think how we can best rebuild trust in politics.”

She said many on the left were still “very angry with me” for her decision to form a left-right coalition after last October’s parliamentary elections – Iceland’s fifth since 2017 – with the conservative Independence party, part of nearly every Icelandic government since 1944, and the centre-right Progressives.

The leader of the former, Bjarni Benediktsson, has been embroiled in multiple scandals: Iceland’s last government, which he led, collapsed less than a year after taking office when it emerged he had known for months that his father wrote a letter supporting the rehabilitation of a notorious convicted paedophile.

After revelations in the Guardian, Benediktsson also faced awkward questions over the sell-off, when he was still an MP, of millions of króna of his assets in a big Icelandic bank’s investment fund just as the government was seizing control of the country’s failing financial sector at the height of the crisis.

His name also appeared in the Panama Papers leak that forced the resignation of his predecessor as prime minister, Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson. Then the leader of the Progressive party, Gunnlaugsson stepped down in 2016 amid public fury at revelations that his family had sheltered money offshore.

A writer and academic with three young boys whose mother was a psychologist and whose twin brothers are both university professors, friends whisper that Jakobsdóttir – known in Iceland, like everyone else, by her first name – has both Benediktsson, her finance minister, and current Progressive party leader Sigurður Ingi Jóhannsson, her transport minister, “round her little finger”.

She, unsurprisingly, refuses to say very much about that, beyond “I know them well” and “everything is going very smoothly”. But scandal-tainted or not, going into government with a pair of alpha-male conservative heavyweights was absolutely the right thing to do, she said.

First, the financial scandals date to a time, before the crisis, when there were “few ethical rules for politicians, no rules or regulations on how you present your interests,” she noted. “That was astonishing, but it’s no longer the case.”

Beyond that, though, “I look at it pragmatically, not moralistically. I think, ‘We’re here now, we need to change the system, so we need everyone at the table.’ Not, ‘I’m not going to work with you because you did things I think are morally wrong.’”

Codes of ethical conduct “don’t work like normal legislation”, Jakobsdóttir insisted. “They work because everyone sits down together and says, ‘We need to work rules out for ourselves.’ And then they need to look

carefully at how well those rules have worked, which we're now doing.”

A late developer economically and politically, Iceland needs “systemic change to restore confidence”, she said. “But doing it this way, having very different parties – in both their political perspective and their cultures – working together ... Yes, it's a gamble. But I really think it's an opportunity for us to rethink, reinvent ourselves.”

Proof of whether it pays off will be in the achievements of her government, which has a wafer-thin majority of just 35 MPs in the 63-seat *Alþingi*. Of Iceland's four most recent governments, only one, the left-leaning administration in which Jakobsdóttir served as education minister from 2009, served a full four-year term.

It certainly has ambitions, the first of which is to boost spending on health, education and public transport after years of post-crisis austerity.

Iceland fell into a deep recession following the 2008 crash, during which its three major banks failed with liabilities of 11 times the country's GDP. The stock market plummeted by 97%, the value of the króna halved, and Iceland became the first western European country in 25 years to ask the IMF for a bailout.

With a reformed financial sector, growth of 4.9% last year, and unemployment down at just 2.5%, the economy has bounced back strongly on the back of an unprecedented tourist boom, but that progress “has not been

shared enough, or delivered into public infrastructure”, Jakobsdóttir said.

On the environment, Iceland aims to be carbon neutral by 2040 – a more ambitious target than the Paris climate accords. “It's doable,” Jakobsdóttir said confidently. “Iceland has renewable energy resources; we have a head start. But again, we won't manage it unless everyone pulls together.”

She is also determined to push the country further on gender equality. This month it became the first country in the world to enforce an equal pay standard, but Iceland “is not a gender paradise”, she said. “We have done a lot of good things here, but there are fewer women in this parliament than in the last one. We're not there yet.”

The #MeToo revolution was “as much of an eye-opener here as anywhere”, Jakobsdóttir said, revealing a country in which entrenched inequality and male power games had survived untouched. Combating gender-based violence and discrimination would be “an absolute priority” starting at home, with government institutions and the political parties.

But she is, she said, cautiously optimistic for the left. “I think the politics of this century are going to revolve a lot around left and right,” she said. “It's about people who can hardly live on their salaries, people's rights ... How people are treated. We've never had a greater need for equality. How we do it doesn't matter.”

(F3) **Lack of migrant workers left food rotting in UK fields last year, data reveals**

Exclusive: Brexit fears and falling pound left fruit and vegetable farms short of more than 4,000 workers, with senior MPs warning of a ‘crisis’

Damian Carrington *Environment editor*

Fri 9 Feb 2018 14.46 GMT

Fruit and vegetable farms across the UK were left short of thousands of migrant workers in 2017, leaving some produce to rot in the fields and farmers suffering big losses.

More than 4,300 vacancies went unfilled, according to new survey data from the National Farmers Union (NFU), which covers about half the horticultural labour market. The survey, seen exclusively by the Guardian, shows more than 99% of the seasonal workers recruited came from eastern Europe, with just 0.6% from the UK.

Since the vote to leave the European Union in 2016, growers have warned repeatedly of damaging labour shortages, with recruiters reporting that Brexit has created the perception among foreign workers that the UK is xenophobic and racist.

The government, which has pledged to reduce immigration, has so far rejected calls to reinstate a seasonal agricultural workers scheme (Saws). Facing uncertainty over labour, some farmers have begun moving their production overseas.

The NFU labour survey found that an average of 12.5% of vacancies went unfilled in 2017, the first time there has been a shortfall since the survey began in 2014. The proportion of

workers returning to work in the UK after previous years is also dropping fast, from 41% in 2016 to 29% in 2017. The fall in the value of the pound after the Brexit vote has also helped make the UK less attractive.

Documents released to the Guardian under freedom of information rules from the government’s Saws Transition Working Group reveal that officials accepted that some farms were “struggling” as far back as July.

The group, comprised of government, growers and recruiters, discussed “creative options such as pick your own and working holidays, drawing on the Australia or New Zealand models”, according to a released meeting agenda from September, and considered a report that suggested cutting food waste would reduce the need for pickers.

“Growers are wondering how they are going to get through the [2018] season,” said Alison Capper, chair of the NFU’s horticulture board. “There is an element of desperation.” She said numerous farms had been forced to leave produce to rot due to lack of labour, but that they did not publicise this because of fears of undermining the confidence of their supermarket customers.

The worst shortfall of labour in 2017 was in the crucial harvest month of September, when 29% of vacancies were unfilled. In Capper’s own apple orchards, 100 bins of Gala eating apples went unpicked, became overripe and had to be sent for juice instead, leading to a £30,000 loss.

Minette Batters, NFU deputy president, has also said fruit and vegetables have rotted in fields and said government action was desperately needed: “This is the number one issue for growers. We don’t see it as an immigration problem – it’s about people that come here, are fully regulated and go home again. The Conservative party seem to have taken a very hard line approach.”

Batters said the horticulture sector had been trying to expand, to provide more homegrown produce: “When we have the climatic conditions to be very successful growers of fruit and veg, it seems a sacrilege not to be making the most of that.”

Neil Parish MP, chair of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, said: “The nationwide shortage of labour is becoming an agricultural crisis for UK farms. It is unacceptable that perfectly good food is rotting in fields. At a time of uncertainty around our future trading relationships, we should be increasing our domestic food security rather than our reliance on imported foodstuffs.”

“The government is not acknowledging the scale of the issue,” he said. Last April, the committee called for “urgent measures” and launched a new enquiry on Monday.

The Labour party is committed to reinstating the Saws and shadow environment secretary Sue Hayman said: “Michael Gove and Theresa May cannot stick their heads in the sand forever. There are serious questions about the

supply, affordability and quality of food we can expect after we leave the EU.”

A government spokeswoman said: “The government places great value on the UK’s food and farming industries. Until we have left the EU, the UK will remain a member and employers in the agricultural and food processing sectors are free to continue to recruit EU workers.”

She said the prime minister had also proposed a further implementation period of two years, during which registered EU citizens can come work in the UK. The government has commissioned expert advice from the Migration Advisory Committee, but that is due to report in September, after the 2018 growing season.

The UK’s 60-year-old Saws scheme was closed in 2013, ahead of the end of immigration restrictions on workers from Bulgaria and Romania, which provide about two-thirds of the UK’s pickers.

Capper is unimpressed by the suggestion of holiday workers filling the labour gap: “[Australia and New Zealand] do have a working holiday visa scheme, but the vast majority of their fresh produce is picked by people on a seasonal workers scheme from Tonga and Samoa, the same way as our old Saws,” she said.

Haygrove raspberry and blueberry farm in Ledbury, Herefordshire is moving some of its growing to Yunnan province in China because of uncertainty over migrant labour. “It is one of many,” said Capper. “There are lots of



businesses looking at other parts of Europe, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, China. We are disinvesting in British production which is just appalling.”

(F4) **UK trade deficit grows as oil price rise pushes up cost of fuel imports**

December figures ‘pretty poor’ given weakness of pound since Brexit vote, City analysts says

Richard Partington *Economics correspondent*

Fri 9 Feb 2018 14.29 GMT

Britain’s trade position with the rest of the world worsened in December as rising global oil prices pushed up the cost of importing fuel, while the continuing weak pound failed to lift sales of UK-made goods abroad.

The difference between the total value of goods and services imported to Britain and sold overseas widened by £1.2bn from November to £4.9bn in December, according to the Office for National Statistics. While there was an increase in goods export volumes, it came at less than half the pace of imports.

The latest trade figures should temper hopes that the economy is rebalancing away from domestic consumption by shoppers on the high street and shifting towards greater levels of global trade and exports. They are also likely to disappoint ministers seeking to expand trade with the rest of the world as Britain leaves the EU.

The monthly trade deficit was the worst reading since September 2016, and was

labelled by City analysts as “pretty poor” given that exporters should have benefited from the lower level of the pound since the Brexit vote and rebounding global economic growth. The increase in the trade deficit came amid an increase in imports from non-EU countries at a faster rate than exports.

James Knightley, chief international economist at ING Bank, said: “The UK continues to underperform other developed market economies, growing at around half the rate of the US and the eurozone.”

An increase in fuel imports and lower levels of fuel exports were the main culprit in pushing up the trade deficit in the final three months of 2017, made worse by the rising oil price, which has driven up the cost of importing crude to Britain.

The weaker month for trade will probably have acted as a drag on economic growth in the fourth quarter, with economists reckoning the net trade position with the rest of the world could subtract about 0.5 percentage points from GDP growth – after having made a neutral contribution over the first three quarters of the year.

The initial estimate for GDP growth in the fourth quarter from the ONS was for the fastest pace of expansion in 2017 at 0.5%, though economists now say that could be revised down.

Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at the Pantheon Macroeconomics consultancy, said British manufacturers were not getting as much of the benefit from the drop in sterling because

they source their raw materials from elsewhere around the world – with the fall in the value of the pound since the EU referendum having pushed up these costs. He said this was “offsetting virtually all of the competitiveness boost from the depreciation”.

The disappointing figures come after the Bank of England sounded a more positive note over the health of the British economy on Thursday, hinting that interest rates would need to rise as early as May to counter inflation that is expected to pick up as the economy begins to overheat.

Threadneedle Street reckons the speed limit of the economy has slowed since the Brexit vote, meaning much lower growth rates are still likely to cause rising inflation.

Separate figures on industrial production from the ONS showed the fastest slowdown in December since 2012, due to the shutdown of the Forties pipeline in the North Sea, which carries oil to the Scottish mainland at Kinneil, near Grangemouth. The pipeline was shut in mid-December for three weeks after the discovery of a crack.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) estimates the pace of economic growth held steady at 0.5% in the three months to the end of January from the level seen in the final quarter of 2017. NIESR said Britain’s manufacturing and services sectors were being supported by the buoyant global economy.

(F5) **Eurostar to launch London-Amsterdam direct service in April**

Tickets to go on sale in February for new rail service expected to challenge airlines

Rebecca Smithers

Fri 9 Feb 2018 11.00 GMT

Eurostar direct rail services between London and Amsterdam will begin on 4 April, the company has announced, in an eagerly awaited move expected to spark a price war with airlines.

Tickets for the two daily trains – starting from £35 one way – will go on sale on 20 February. The services will allow passengers to travel from St Pancras station in central London direct to the Netherlands in three to four hours.

More than 4 million passengers a year fly between London and Amsterdam, making it one of Europe’s busiest air routes as the Netherlands grows in popularity as a key business and tourism hub.

The cross-Channel rail operator is set to challenge established airlines on the route, including British Airways, easyJet and Ryanair. It will target potential converts by saying a London-Amsterdam Eurostar journey emits 80% less carbon than the equivalent flight.

Plans for the service were first announced in September 2013 but the official start date has been subject to numerous delays while immigration and passport controls were agreed.

These issues mean direct services returning to London will not be in place until the end of

next year. Passengers travelling from Amsterdam and Rotterdam will have to connect through Brussels for passport controls and security screening until the two governments complete an agreement allowing passport checks to be conducted in the Netherlands.

Nicolas Petrovic, the outgoing chief executive of Eurostar, said the Netherlands service heralded a new era in international high-speed rail. "With direct services from the UK to the Netherlands, France and Belgium, we are transforming the links between the UK and three of Europe's top trading nations."

The launch follows the completion of testing on the Dutch high-speed network and construction of Eurostar terminals in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. The journey time will be 3hr 01min between London and Rotterdam and 3hr 41min between London and Amsterdam.

New e320 trains, which have been operating between London and Paris since 2015, will be used on the route as their technology is compatible with the Dutch railway system.

**(F6) UK demands putting Brexit transition deal in doubt, says Barnier**

EU negotiator also confirms Northern Ireland would in effect stay in single market and customs union under draft withdrawal deal

Daniel Boffey *and* Jennifer Rankin *in Brussels*

Fri 9 Feb 2018 12.43 GMT

Agreement on a transition period after Brexit has been thrown in doubt by the UK's demands, the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, has warned.

Speaking in Brussels after the latest round of talks, Barnier said he could not understand the positions taken by Downing Street in recent days. "To be quite frank, if these disagreements persist the transition is not a given," he said.

The comments on Friday triggered an immediate plunge in the value of the pound, in an indication of the importance of a transition period in cushioning businesses in the UK from the effects of Brexit on 29 March 2019.

During the envisioned 21-month transition the UK will effectively stay in the EU, and under its laws, but lose its seat in its decision-making institutions. However, No 10 wants to treat EU citizens arriving in the UK during the transition period differently to those already living in the country.

The UK is also seeking a right to object to the application of new EU laws and retain the right to opt in to new security policies on justice and home affairs.

Barnier told reporters he was "surprised" by the UK's demands and suggested that unless Downing Street gave way, the differences between the two parties could be insurmountable.

"When I met [the Brexit secretary] David Davis in London on Monday and once again in negotiations in Brussels this week, the UK

insisted that we should reach an agreement in March on this transition period,” Barnier said. “At the same time, however, our partners set out a certain number of disagreements which I regard as substantial.”

Barnier added: “I don’t understand some of the positions of the UK ... I am surprised by these disagreements. The positions of the EU are very logical ... If these disagreements persist, there will undoubtedly be a problem.”

The shadow Brexit secretary, Keir Starmer, described the comments as a “wake-up call”.

Stephen Jones, chief executive of UK Finance, the lobby group for the financial services sector, said: “It is urgent and crucial for businesses that a definitive transition period is agreed by the UK and EU governments ahead of the March European council meeting.”

As pressure also grows on Theresa May to find agreement in the cabinet on a vision for a future trading relationship with the EU, Barnier claimed a presentation on the issue had been cancelled by the British government on Friday morning due to what he described as “diary constraints on the UK side”.

He said: “The time has come to make choices and we await with great interest the choices to be made by the British government, that is all I can say. It wasn’t possible for that presentation to be given today for the reasons I mentioned and hopefully this will be in the near future. The time has come to make choices ...

“As I said time is short, very short, and we haven’t a minute to lose if we want to succeed.”

In response to criticism from the UK government that the EU had been unwilling to engage in further negotiations next week, Barnier made a thinly veiled criticism of Davis’s decision not to appear alongside him in Brussels on Friday. He said regular rounds of talks, with gaps in between for consultation with the member states, would continue, as would meetings with Davis “every time he so wishes”.

Government sources denied a presentation had been cancelled and insisted a discussion would happen later on Friday.

Responding to comments from Davis on Thursday that the EU had been “discourteous” in including a punishment clause in its terms for a transition period, giving it the ability to sanction the UK if it infringed EU laws, Barnier said: “My attitude has not been in the least discourteous. It is totally foreign to my state of mind ... I don’t really understand why there was this reaction, this uproar.”

He confirmed the Guardian’s report that, under the draft withdrawal agreement, Northern Ireland would in effect stay in the single market and customs union where relevant to the north-south economy and Good Friday agreement.

Barnier said there was no possibility of a trade deal that could avoid barriers to trade, and that the UK had not yet offered any “specific solutions” to avoid a hard border. Regulatory

alignment between the EU and Northern Ireland had been accepted by the UK as the default position, he suggested.

(F7) **Nicola Sturgeon rejects calls to clarify**

**US military Prestwick use**

Scottish Greens have urged first minister to release heavily redacted documents

Severin Carrell *Scotland editor*

Thu 8 Feb 2018 17.52 GMT

Nicola Sturgeon has rejected calls for the full disclosure of evidence that a publicly owned Scottish airport is being used for frontline military missions by US air forces and marines.

The first minister was pressed by Patrick Harvie, the Scottish Green party leader, to release heavily redacted documents published by the Guardian revealing that the US military flew sorties and “active duty” missions from Prestwick airport in Ayrshire.

The memos also showed that the airport, which was brought into public ownership when Sturgeon was deputy first minister in 2013, signed valuable deals to supply the US military and pursued contracts at US military air shows after it was nationalised.

Speaking at first minister’s questions, Sturgeon said it was “a load of bunkum” to suggest Prestwick’s use by the US air force was a revelation, since it had been mentioned in the airport’s business plans.

She said it had been a staging post for the US air force (USAF) for 80 years, including a brief

visit by Elvis Presley on his way home from Germany in 1960. “The fact that it provides fixed-base operations and refuelling facilities for military flights is neither new nor a revelation,” she said.

Harvie accused Sturgeon of being dismissive and of failing to address the questions raised by the new documents. He said the central issue was whether the USAF had used Prestwick to mount bombing operations and military strikes, and whether ministers had known about it.

Opposition parties accused Sturgeon’s government of hypocrisy on Wednesday, since the Scottish National party, which she leads, had been the most vocal critics of US and western military strikes in the Middle East.

SNP ministers have signed three motions tabled by the SNP at Holyrood condemning airstrikes on Syria and attacking Labour’s failure to follow an ethical foreign policy by allowing UK army bases to be used by the Syrian military.

Scottish ministers owned Prestwick, which has lost more than £26m in public ownership, but seemed to believe they had no responsibilities to protect the public interest, Harvie said. “This public asset now appears to have based its business model on servicing military attacks that the Scottish government claims to oppose and promoting the toxic Trump brand, which can only damage Scotland’s reputation,” he said.

The first minister also claimed that the Scottish government had published the material seen by

the Guardian. The memos and documents were very heavily redacted by government officials, and redacted again when the Guardian requested their full disclosure on appeal.

Speaking after first minister's questions, Sturgeon's spokesman refused to say whether she was now acknowledging that ministers knew the US military flew frontline operations and sorties from Prestwick. He also refused to answer media questions on whether the first minister was happy that such flights took place. "I have nothing further to add to what the FM said in the chamber," he said.

Other documents released by the Scottish government show that its economy secretary, Keith Brown, took part in Prestwick airport board meetings and had numerous meetings with airport executives. Long sections of this documents are redacted.

He had confirmed previously at Holyrood that he closely scrutinised Prestwick's dealings and checked that it deserved further government loans, which could reach £48m this year. "We analyse each request for finance and ensure that the taxpayers' money is being looked after," he told MSPs in March 2017.

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## Résumé

Tato bakalářská práce se věnuje interpunkci v anglickém jazyce. V teoretické části jsou popsána jednotlivá interpunkční znaménka a jejich použití dle různých autorů. Práce se krátce věnuje rozdílům mezi formálním a neformálním stylem anglického jazyka. Praktická část této bakalářské práce se potom soustředí na rozdíly mezi použitím interpunkce ve formálním a neformálním textu, které byly získány analýzou těchto stylů textu.

## Anotace

<b>Jméno a příjmení:</b>	Kamila Cermanová
<b>Katedra nebo ústav:</b>	Ústav cizích jazyků
<b>Vedoucí práce:</b>	Mgr. Jana Kořínková, Ph.D.
<b>Rok obhajoby:</b>	2018

<b>Název práce:</b>	Interpunkce v anglickém jazyce v různých stylech textu
<b>Název v angličtině:</b>	English punctuation in various styles of text
<b>Anotace práce:</b>	Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá interpunkcí v anglickém jazyce. Teoretická část práce se věnuje jednotlivým interpunkčním znaménkům a krátce rozdílu mezi formální a neformální angličtinou. Praktická část poukazuje na rozdíly v interpunkci ve formálním a neformálním textu získané analýzou těchto textů.
<b>Klíčová slova:</b>	Interpunkce, interpunkční znaménka, formální text, neformální text, srovnání
<b>Anotace v angličtině:</b>	This bachelor thesis focuses on the punctuation in English. The theoretical part focuses on individual punctuation marks and briefly on the difference between formal and informal English. The practical part shows the differences between punctuation in formal and informal texts which were analysed.
<b>Klíčová slova v angličtině:</b>	Punctuation, punctuation mark, formal text, informal text, comparison
<b>Přílohy vázané v práci:</b>	24 stran, analyzované texty
<b>Rozsah práce:</b>	64 s.
<b>Jazyk práce:</b>	Anglický jazyk