

Punctuation Hierarchies

FUNCTIONAL MARK	DEGREE OF SEPARATION	FUNCTION
. ? ! sentence final	maximum	separates independent clauses
;	medium ["and"]	separate independent clauses, OR non-independent elements from independent clauses
:	medium (anticipatory) ["namely" or "here it comes"]	
--	medium (emphatic)	
,	minimum	separates non-independent clause elements from independent clauses
no punctuation	none	

Patterns

- I **[word/phrase/clause] + *punctuation?* + Billy laughed aloud.**
- II Billy laughed aloud + ***punctuation?* + [word/phrase/clause].**
- III Billy + ***punctuation?* + [word/phrase/clause] + *punctuation?* + laughed aloud.**

Choices

- I (for Pattern I) Comma, dash, or colon are permissible.
- II (for Pattern II) All marks are permissible.
- III (for Pattern III) Paired marks (commas, dashes, and parentheses) are permissible.