

Punctuation Hierarchies and Sentence Patterns

<i>Functional Mark</i>	<i>Degree of Separation</i>	<i>Job</i>
. ? ! sentence final	maximum	separate independent clauses
; semicolon	medium ["and"]	separate independent clauses, OR non-independent elements from independent clauses
: colon	medium (anticipatory) ["namely" or "here it comes"]	
-- dash	medium (emphatic)	
, comma	minimum	separates non-independent clause elements from independent clauses
0 no punctuation	none (completely connected)	

Patterns

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

- I (for Pattern I) Only zero, comma, dash, or colon are permissible.
- II (for Pattern II) All marks are permissible.
- III (for Pattern III) Only paired marks (commas, dashes, zeros, and parentheses) are permissible.