

Same words. Different voice.

A 15-minute punctuation activity. Use the chart as a field guide, not an answer key.

1. Hear it (3 minutes)

Write: "You did that". Read it as a calm statement, a question and a shout. Ask: what changed when the words did not?

2. Mark it (5 minutes)

In pairs, choose marks for "Really", "That went well" and "You are coming". Try two versions of each. Use the chart to find a mark you have not used before.

3. Defend it (5 minutes)

Swap with another pair. Can they hear the intended tone? Explain what the mark contributes. More than one choice can work if you can defend it.

Exit ticket (2 minutes)

Write one sentence twice with different punctuation. Under each, name the voice you want the reader to hear.

Teacher note: distinguish common punctuation from historical or proposed marks. Experimenting with a mark does not make it standard usage.

Punctuation: a field guide · Brad E. Bailey · Classroom use welcome.