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## Tribute to Punctuation a Great Idea – Period

By Mary Lynn Plageman

Did you catch the specialness of Wednesday?

It was National Punctuation Day.

I was reminded of the occasion by an opportunistic e-mail from SpinVox, a mobile service that converts voice into text for delivery as, say, e-mail or a blog entry.

The subject line queried: *How are you celebrating?*

Honestly? I hadn't made any plans.

Given my appreciation for proper punctuation, grammar and spelling, though, I was intrigued.

So I read on.

"As a company that shares a passion for words and the way they appear on paper and electronically," SpinVox said, "it seemed like a no-brainer to help spread some cheer."

Making punctuation fun? Nice spin, SpinVox.

The company, I then learned, was looking to inspire me to "punctuate with panache!" Nice alliteration, too.

The way to toast the beauty of English grammar, I eventually discovered, was to download a 20-song iTunes playlist created by SpinVox in honor of Punctuation Day.

Ten of those songs invite mondegreens (misheard or misinterpreted lyrics); the other 10, through their titles, inherently pay tribute to punctuation.

I wasn't exactly moved to make the \$19.80 purchase, but I did enjoy the creative effort to pump me up on Punctuation Day.

The 10 songs that might spur mondegreens (my new favorite word):

1. *Karma Chameleon* (Culture Club) -- which, particularly on Punctuation Day, might be heard as *Comma Chameleon*



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2. *Semi-Charmed Life* (Third Eye Blind) -- aka *Semi-Colon Life*
3. *I've Been Everywhere* (Johnny Cash) -- aka *Hyphen Everywhere*
4. *Running With the Devil* (Van Halen) -- aka *Run-On With the Devil*
5. *Posse in Effect* (Beastie Boys) -- aka *Apostrophe in Effect*
6. *Enter Sandman* (Metallica) -- aka *Enter Ampersand*
7. *Monster Mash* (Bobby "Boris" Pickett) -- aka *Monster Dash*
8. *Break It Off* (Rihanna) -- aka *Bracket Off*
9. *London Calling* (the Clash) -- aka *London Colon*
10. *Our Lips Are Sealed* (the Go-Go's) -- aka *Our Ellipsis Are Sealed*

As for the songs (and artists) whose titles unwittingly honor punctuation, these top the SpinVox list:

1. *Up the Bracket* (Libertines)
2. *Country Grammar* (Nelly)
3. *Rankin' Full Stop* (the English Beat)
4. *5:15* (the Who)
5. *Start!* (the Jam)
6. *Where Is the Love?* (Black Eyed Peas & Justin Timberlake)
7. *Oops! . . . I Did It Again* (Britney Spears)
8. *Run It!* (Chris Brown)
9. *(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction* (the Rolling Stones)
10. *Whoomp! There It Is*

