

Punctuation Sentences

KEN

- 1) Mark Twain once said, "Do not let school get in the way of your education."
- 2) While I was doing my homework, I watched a show on rafting the Yangtze river in China, which is perhaps the roughest river in the world to navigate.
- 3) "You had better watch out," warned my mother. "I do not want to come home to find that you have been having fun with your friends instead of cleaning the house."
- 4) I really love to go to art museums; in fact, I find visiting art museums more peaceful than going to the movies or playing in the park.
- 5) I do believe that you are looking for the man who is wearing the pinstripe suit.
- 6) Even though I had just finished packing, I realized that I had forgotten three important things: my swimsuit, a towel, and some sunscreen.
- 7) Jonathon loves to eat warm, fresh apple pie.
- 8) One reason that I avoid taking long hikes is that I have very sensitive feet.
- 9) George said, "Is it true that we are going to go on a field trip to the zoo tomorrow?"
- 10) The day started out cold and blustery; however, it quickly turned warm and sultry.

Punctuation Quiz

Name Ken

Place commas, semicolons, or colons where appropriate:

1. Insects are hideous creatures; they bite and sting and irritate.
2. I really hate to go hiking, so when our class went on a camping trip, I bought some good hiking boots, special socks, and a water bottle.
3. There are exactly four reasons why I love my dog; he is cute, he makes me laugh, he keeps me company, and he protects me.
4. My favorite classes are Biology, taught by Mr. Rank; Geometry, taught by Ms. Smell; English, taught by Mr. Odor; and Spanish, taught by Senior Stink.
5. In the morning, I always eat a good breakfast; my mom makes pancakes, french toast, or waffles every day.

Name KEY

**I. Insert semi-colons and/or commas where necessary:**

- 1) On the way to school, I forgot my umbrella; of course, it rained today.
- 2) Tsunamis are actually very rare natural disasters; tornadoes and hurricanes are far more common.
- 3) George ran the mile in six minutes flat; however, he tripped and fell in the hurdle competition.
- 4) Sarah spends every Tuesday washing her work clothes, which her boss expects to be cleaned once a week; washing her dog, who has an allergic skin condition and requires weekly baths; and washing her car, which is brand new and very, very special to her.
- 5) George, however, only washes his clothes once a month, never washes his dog, and does not own a car.
- 6) Italian food is rich and full of flavor; in fact, many consider it to be the most delicious food in the world.
- 7) In fact, when I travel to Italy, I always gain a couple of pounds!

**II. Insert colons or commas where necessary:**

- 1) There was only one reason to buy the ceramic, pink hippopotomus; it was on sale.
- 2) Mrs. Witchly hated all children; "Get away from my yard, you horrible, small people!"
- 3) When going camping it is important to bring an extra pair of clean socks, extra batteries for your flashlight, and a first aid kit.
- 4) I only like to eat three kinds of fruit; apples, pears, and bananas.
- 5) Walt Whitman's poetry all centers around one important theme; personal experience.
- 6) Tropical fish come in a variety of colors, such as blue, yellow, red, pink, and orange.
- 7) I love Starbucks for two reasons; the coffee is good, and the chairs are comfortable.

Comma Quiz 2  
Eng 11

Name KEY

1. The stewardess who is wearing the atrocious earrings is the one who dumped coffee in my lap.
2. My doctor, Joe Richguy, started up his own company selling specialized computer software.
3. I really like my dentist, who always gives me headphones to wear while working on my teeth.
4. The canyon which is located in the southwest corner of Arizona offers a waterfall, interesting plant life, and two endangered species.
5. Karl's brand new car, which he got as a birthday present, is now missing the front left fender.
- 6) The Middle Ages, which cover the years from 500 to 1000, was a time of great change and cultural growth.
- 7) Over the summer, I visited Belize, a scuba diver's paradise.
- 8) The picture which hangs over the fireplace was taken when I was only six years old.

Commas

Name KEY

1. The little boy who always wears a red sweatshirt loves to play on the jungle gym.
2. The printing press was invented at the end of the Middle Ages, a time period spanning 500-1500 A. D.
3. The woman who is in the car in front of me has a beautiful pair of sunglasses.
4. Mrs. Fandingle, who runs the jewelry store down the street, really gets on my nerves.
5. Marcy Mildew, who just happens to be a distant relation to me, is the new spokesperson for Brite cleaner.
6. The Romantic period, which spans 150 years, saw great changes in the style of poetry and literature.
7. Sarah Connor, who is my cousin, has the most beautiful garden.
8. The Sarah Connor who is the character in The Terminator was played by Linda Hamilton.
9. My brother and I took a long road trip to the Grand Canyon, which was formed by the Colorado River.
10. Darcy Doolittle had 11 pets in her household, which, as you can guess, smelled.
11. After getting her million dollar raise, our English teacher bought three new cars that all had convertible tops.

English 11  
Comma Quiz II

Name KEY

Place commas wherever they are needed in the following sentences:

- 1) Karl's brand new car, which he got as a birthday present, is now missing the front left fender.
- 2) Over the summer, I visited Belize, a scuba diver's paradise.
- 3) We decided to pack up our gear and hike the canyon which is located in the southeast corner of Arizona.
- 4) Jose Johnson came by yesterday in his brand new, very expensive Ford Mustang.
- 5) The picture which hangs over the fireplace was taken when I was only six years old.
- 6) Georgette Jones was completely fed up with the current state of affairs in her hometown and, therefore, ran for mayor.
- 7) The stewardess who is wearing the atrocious earrings is the one who dropped coffee in my lap.
- 8) After the party was over, Jessie picked through the mess and found two dollar bills, a necklace, and one bow tie.
- 9) My foot doctor, Joe Richguy, started up his own company selling electric foot warmers.
- 10) After a weekend full of activities, Sabina found that Monday came too fast, and, in fact, she forgot to set her alarm, so she missed her first class.

Comma Quiz I  
Dr. Huth  
Eng 9

Name KEY

Insert commas where necessary (make sure your commas and their placement are obvious):

- 1) When I was a kid, I used to swing on the branch of a tall, old, majestic elm tree.
- 2) George marched in his school band, but he forgot his baton.
- 3) The fluffy rabbit bounced along the path and hopped down the Bunny Trail.
- 4) Did you buy mandarin oranges or valencia oranges?
- 5) The doctor was interested in where I travelled this summer, what I had eaten on my vacation, and how long I was gone.
- 6) Josephine Cherry loved to wear bright clothes and talk loudly and make a scene.
- 7) Cacti are fascinating plants, and a person can make many cacti from just one average-sized plant.
- 8) The Emperor George loved to wear the most fantastic crowns, and one of them was particularly valuable because it was made with brilliant rubies.
- 9) In order to arrive on time, I left my house an hour early.
- 10) The storm approached the beachfront, but it did not damage or harm one single home.

Comma Quiz 1

Name KEY

1) The Nepalese people have always felt comfortable with the mixture of Hinduism and Buddhism in the country, so the ongoing conflict between ~~the~~ India and China is difficult for them to understand.

2) Our new house is gorgeous, but the neighborhood is a great example of an overpriced unattractive area.

3) I always loved reptiles as a kid, and I was forever going to the pet store or to the zoo to look at the lizards and snakes.

4) Josie's little kitten was scared by the dog and ran up the huge old oak tree.

5) Bertrand is <sup>EITHER</sup> going to go home to Germany on his break or he is going to visit his grandmother in Miami.

Insert commas where necessary; if the sentence is correct then put a **check mark** next to the sentence. Above each comma, write the corresponding rule number (1, 2, 3 or 4):

1. According to Mr. Miles, we will have homework every night for the rest of the year.
2. My last job at Randall's was a happy, rewarding experience, and I made a lot of money.
3. We hoped to see Texas play in the Rose Bowl, but no tickets were available.
4. You may want to go buy a new iPod, or you may want to buy a Dell Jukebox.
5. Spencer, my good friend from camp, ran down the hill and jumped in the lake.
6. The football player who won the Hieseman Trophy this year was accused of taking steroids.
7. Like Hemingway, Raymond Carver is famous for his direct, sparse writing style, but the two authors write about very different things.
8. The canyon west of Los Angeles is a famous spot for movie shoots.
9. After you eat Mexican food, it is important to drink water and to eat a fresh mint.
10. The short Buddhist monk was actually a secret agent in disguise.
11. The red Corvette raced through the street, over the curb, and straight into Shoal Creek.
12. The bamboo did not survive the recent frost and froze all the way to the ground.
13. Basketball, not football, is my favorite sport.
14. The red toy car came with complicated, confusing directions.
15. When you go on a cruise, always remember to bring a passport, traveler checks, a dictionary, and some patience.

16. Tomas, a local DJ, has a good taste in music, but he likes to play only heavy-metal music on Saturday nights.
17. Charles Dicken's novel *A Tale of Two Cities* is an excellent story about love and redemption during the French Revolution.
18. Although Barry Bonds, the famous baseball player, hit many home runs, it seems clear that he used illegal steroids to increase his strength and to increase his performance.
19. Bonds, unfortunately, might be banned from baseball.
20. My grandmother just bought a new fur coat from a guy on the corner which is why we are all skeptical of its authenticity.
21. Sammy ran across the hike and bike trail and caught up with his buddy.
22. My sister and I took a long road trip to Big Bend, which contains an incredibly dramatic mountain range in the middle of a desert.
23. Are you busy Saturday night, or would you like to the Missy Elliot concert?
24. Yes, we will be happy to give you a refund or store credit
25. While reading the New York Times, Susan stumbled across a picture of her old roommate Lucy Cavallos, who was known for always wearing dark glasses, even indoors.

Circle the punctuation errors in the following sentences and correct them. If a sentence is punctuated correctly, put a check mark next to it.

- 1) "While I study for my exams," said Bob, "I try to munch on peanuts and chocolate because they contain a lot of protein."
- 2) Princess Serena was dismayed to discover that her crown was missing some of its jewels; however, she knew the thief was the court jester.
- ✓ 3) John was confused, so he asked, "Why did the dining hall serve chicken fingers with jelly instead of mustard?"
- 4) The most common tropical plant in India is the hibiscus, and, of course, they grow bigger there than they do in Texas.
- 5) Of the short stories we read before Christmas, my favorite was "Cathedral" because it has a subtle, uplifting ending.
- 6) My favorite names for girls are "Sophia", "Lucy" and "Mina"; however, my husband hates all three of those names.
- 7) Even though it is difficult to grow citrus in Texas because our winters are too cold, it can still be done.
- 8) "That is disgusting," said my mother. "You should never chew with your mouth open."
- 9) The poem's message comes down to one main point: love is not a simple thing.
- 10) Of all of Shakespeare's plays, "Hamlet" is the most popular, and it is also the play that is taught more than any of the others.

Add semi-colons, colons, or commas where appropriate. Do not add words or change letters. Put a check mark next to any sentence that does not require punctuation:

- 1) I love to read books; in fact, I try to read one book a week.
- 2) The best book I have ever read was Mrs. Dalloway, by Virginia Woolf.
- 3) I try to read a little bit every evening before bed; that is why I often wake up with my book still in my hands!
- 4) There are three factors in how I choose a book: the cover, the topic, and the author.
- 5) Although I find it difficult sometimes, I force myself to finish every book I start.
- 6) I can usually finish a book in a couple of days if I have nothing else to do, but this is rarely the case.
- 7) My favorite authors are William Faulkner, Rohinton Mistry, and Raymond Carver.
- 8) Joseph Conrad, however, only wrote one book that I enjoyed: Heart of Darkness.
- 9) The movie "Apocolypse Now" directed by Francis Ford Coppola, is based on Conrad's Heart of Darkness.
- 10) This is one case in which I think the movie is as good as the book; most of the time the movie is a poor imitation of the book.

## Quotes Etc. Quiz

1) After running six miles, the cheerleader exclaimed, "I'm switching to cross country."

2) "Once upon a time," croaked the old grandfather, "there was a beautiful castle in a faraway land."

3) Did Mark just ask, "Where are we going?"

4) Maryanne yawned when she finished reading the short story "Araby" even though her teacher claimed it was a well-loved work; it just did not excite her at all.

5) "First I water the plants," said the ranger, "I then pick off all the dead blooms."

6) Francie whispered, "Did the teacher just say we were going to have a test on Friday?"

7) After carefully sticking to the sidewalk, Ralph asked, "Why did Mr. Gruff get mad and yell, 'Stay off the grass!?'?"

8) On students' tests, they always seem to forget that with a plural possessive the apostrophe goes after the "s."

9) She raked the yard, cleaned out the garage, weeded the garden, and washed her car; Marcie was very productive when she got up early.

10) Donald Duk was a sad Chinese American boy who was embarrassed of his culture's customs, so, for example, he hid under the bed when it was time to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Punctuate the following sentences with semi-colons, colons, or commas. Make sure that your marks are legible.

- 1) Regardless of what I'm reading, I always read with a pen.
- 2) In the end there was only one reason to buy the ceramic elephant; it was on sale.
- 3) My best friend who lives down the street walks with me to school every day.
- 4) In Canada, the day after Christmas is called Boxing Day, which traditionally was the day when servants would receive gifts from their employers.
- 5) At the pet store, I bought an aquarium, some rabbit food, a leash and a food bowl.
- 6) "At the end of the day, however, most people just want to lie on the couch and watch Friends."
- 7) Typewriters are almost extinct; in fact, now you can only find them in antique stores.
- 8) The woman who crashed my car is walking in the door.
- 9) Martha Stewart couldn't decide between the French or the English lace; she lost many nights of sleep over this dilemma.
- 10) After finishing the final sentence the author put down her pen; this was certainly a moment to celebrate.