

Punctuation Tips

If you see a ;

- make sure that it has an independent clause on either side! ind. clause; ind. clause

If you see a :

- make sure that a full independent clause comes before it ind. clause: list
quote
word
ind. clause

If you see a ,

- make sure that it adheres to one of the four comma rules
 1. before a fanboy in compound sentences
 2. after an introductory word, phrase, or clause
 3. between items in a series (even adjectives if they can be switched)
 4. before and after a non-restrictive or parenthetical word, phrase, or clause.

-
- remember that these rules all apply to the words and sentences inside quotes
-

- periods and commas go inside quotes except for ONE CASE:

The creatures section begins with these words: "It is with considerable difficulty that I remember the original era of my being" (Shelley, 105).

Note that the period comes after the citation.

Punctuation Sentences

- 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_____

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 _____

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.

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_____

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.

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 I 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.

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.

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 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 much 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 cultures 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