

Commas That Separate

Lesson 2

21 Commas are used to separate items and to enclose items.

Without commas, some items in a sentence would run into one another, causing confusion. Following are situations in which commas should be used to separate items.

➔ Items in a Series

Three or more similar items together form a series. Words, phrases, or clauses can be written as a series.

21 Use commas to separate items in a **series**.

Words	I need to buy sunscreen, sunglasses, a towel, and a hat. (nouns)
	Today I washed, waxed, and repaired the boat. (verbs)
Phrases	Did you look on the deck, behind the mast, and under the boom? (prepositional phrases)
Clauses	I don't know what time the regatta is, where it is, or who will be there. (noun clauses)

Through common usage it has become acceptable to omit the comma before the conjunction that connects the last two items in a series. If that comma is omitted, however, some sentences could be misread. That is why it is better to include the comma before the conjunction.

Confusing	The restaurant had banana, bran, blueberry and raisin muffins.
Clear	The restaurant had banana, bran, blueberry, and raisin muffins.

If conjunctions connect all the items in a series, no commas are needed.

• We can go sailing on Friday or Saturday or Sunday.

Some words, such as *macaroni and cheese*, are thought of as a single item. If one of these pairs of words appears in a series, consider it one item.

• For breakfast I ordered juice, ham and eggs, and a muffin.

Practice

Items

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

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Practice Your Skills

Items in a Series

Rewrite each sentence, adding commas where needed. If the sentence is correct, write **C**.

1. Use flour sugar salt and buttermilk in your scones.
2. We ate breakfast at Joe's lunch at Jen's and dinner at Mai's.
3. I love eating fried eggs scrambled eggs and hardboiled eggs.
4. Tonight I will have either corn or beans or carrots with dinner.
5. Would you prefer milk water or some juice with your meal?

➔ Adjectives Before a Noun

Sometimes a comma should separate two adjectives that are not connected by a conjunction.

• We followed the steep, narrow road to their beach house.

21 It is sometimes necessary to use a comma to separate two adjectives that precede a noun and are not joined by a conjunction.

Use this test to decide if a comma is needed between two adjectives: If a sentence reads sensibly with *and* between the adjectives, a comma is needed.

•	Comma	Don't lean on that old, rickety boat. (<i>Old and rickety boat</i> reads well.)
•	No Comma	Don't lean on that old green boat. (<i>Old and green boat</i> does not read well.)

Usually no comma is needed after a number or after an adjective that refers to size, shape, or age. For example, no commas are needed in the following expressions.

ADJECTIVE EXPRESSIONS

two short messages	a tall elderly man
round green eyes	large red apples

Practice Your Skills

Using Commas to Separate

Write **a** or **b** to indicate which sentence in each pair shows the correct use of commas.

1. **a.** Dad's new sailboat turns well, sails fast, and attracts much attention on the lake.
b. Dad's new sailboat turns well sails fast, and attracts much attention on the lake.
2. **a.** Jet skis, sailboards and motor boats are popular.
b. Jet skis, sailboards, and motor boats are popular.
3. **a.** Catamarans are fast versatile boats.
b. Catamarans are fast, versatile boats.
4. **a.** The cabin cruiser rolled pitched, and tossed, in the stormy waters.
b. The cabin cruiser rolled, pitched, and tossed in the stormy waters.
5. **a.** I don't know whether I should sail, whether I should water-ski, or whether I should swim.
b. I don't know whether I should sail whether I should water-ski or whether I should swim.
6. **a.** From the cliff we viewed the dark blue sea.
b. From the cliff we viewed the dark, blue sea.
7. **a.** The skipper said to straighten the tiller, pull in the jib sheet, and coil the extra lines.
b. The skipper said to straighten the tiller pull in the jib sheet and coil the extra lines.

Connect to Writing: Editing

Using Commas Correctly

Write each sentence, adding a comma or commas where needed. If a sentence does not need any commas, write **C** for correct.

1. We spent the hot July weekend at the beach.
2. Florida has some of America's best tourist attractions warmest weather and prettiest beaches.
3. Tourists enjoy that warm sunny weather.
4. Bob described scouting for fish, catching the fish, and cleaning the fish.
5. Do you want baked fish, fish and chips or poached fish for dinner?

➔ Compound

A compound sentence is separated. Using a conj

21 B Use a comma clauses are joi

A comma is usually plac in a compound sentenc

..... Come to my hous
 The turtle swims

A comma is not needed separating the independ

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Be careful that you do i has a compound verb. I there are three or more

..... Compound Sentence
 Compound Verb

A compound sentence can pages 908–913.

➤ Compound Sentences

A compound sentence becomes a run-on sentence when independent clauses are not separated. Using a conjunction and a comma is one way to correct run-on sentences.

21 Use a comma to separate independent clauses of a compound sentence if the clauses are joined by a coordinating conjunction.

A comma is usually placed before the conjunctions *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *so*, and *yet* in a compound sentence.

.....
Come to my house, **and** we'll look at the turtle shell.

.....
The turtle swims quickly, **but** it walks slowly.
.....

.....
.....
.....

.....
No Comma The turtle moved but I stayed.
.....

.....
Comma I waited, for I was curious.
.....

Be careful that you do not confuse a compound sentence with a simple sentence that has a compound verb. No comma comes before the parts of a compound verb unless there are three or more verbs.

.....
Compound Sentence My friend pitched the tent, and I built a fire.
(A comma is needed.)

.....
Compound Verb My friend pitched the tent and built a fire.
(No comma is needed.)
.....

A compound sentence can also be joined by a semicolon. You can learn more about semicolons on pages 908–913.

When You Write

Writers will sometimes deliberately use a run-on sentence to create a scene or mood. In the following passage, notice how Charles Dickens uses commas to separate pairs of independent clauses that show the opposites that exist in the two cities of London and Paris.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way.

—Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

You can learn more about run-on sentences on pages 10, 118, 255, 620, 672–674, 680, 838, 868, and 930.

Practice Your Skills

Using Commas with Compound Sentences

Write **a** or **b** to indicate which sentence in each pair shows the correct use of commas.

1. **a.** Look carefully, for turtles are hard to find.
b. Look carefully for turtles, are hard to find.
2. **a.** Turtles are hard to find and, they like to hide in their shells.
b. Turtles are hard to find, and they like to hide in their shells.
3. **a.** Snapping turtles look fearsome, yet they seldom bite people.
b. Snapping turtles look fearsome yet, they seldom bite people.
4. **a.** Turtles like to sun themselves and eat plants, and fish.
b. Turtles like to sun themselves and eat plants and fish.
5. **a.** The turtle's shell was scaly and its feet had claws.
b. The turtle's shell was scaly, and its feet had claws.
6. **a.** Many baby turtles are eaten by raccoons, so some kinds of turtles are scarce.
b. Many, baby turtles are eaten by raccoons so some kinds of turtles are scarce.
7. **a.** Snapping turtles are loners, and often live quiet lives.
b. Snapping turtles are loners and often live quiet lives.

Connect to Writing

Writing Compound Sentences

Write one compound sentence for each pair of clauses in the box. Use commas as needed.

1. turtles
2. fishing
3. water
4. scientists
5. boats

Connect to Writing

Using Commas in Compound Sentences

Write each sentence in the box. Use commas as needed.

1. The scientist of bad weather.
2. They plow the field.
3. You need a map.
4. All the eggs are fresh.
5. Photograph the scene.

Connect to Writing: Drafting

Writing Compound Sentences

Write one compound sentence for each of the following subjects. Make sure the clauses in each compound sentence are related. Add commas where needed.

1. turtles
2. fishing
3. water
4. scientists
5. boats

Connect to Writing: Editing

Using Commas in Compound Sentences

Write each sentence, adding a comma or commas where needed. If a sentence does not need any commas, write **C** for correct.

1. The scientists were close to the turtle's nest but they turned back because of bad weather.
2. They plowed through the underbrush and made their way to a clearing.
3. You need to move more quickly or you will miss the turtles hatching.
4. All the eggs have hatched and the baby turtles have left the nest.
5. Photograph these baby turtles now, for tomorrow they will be gone.



➤ Introductory Structures

Certain words, phrases, and clauses that come at the beginning of a sentence need to be separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma.

21 B Use a comma after certain introductory structures.

The following are examples of introductory structures that should be followed by a comma.

Words

Why, surely you've studied the material.

(*No, now, oh, well,* and *yes* are other introductory words—unless they are a part of the sentence; for example, *Why didn't you go?*)

Prepositional Phrases

After five hours of studying, I never wanted to sit again.

(A comma comes after more than one prepositional phrase or a prepositional phrase of four or more words.)

Participial Phrases

Opening my grammar book, I found my missing class notes.

Adverbial Clause

Since the day was overcast, I took an umbrella to school with me.

Phrase That Ends in a Number

In Room 151, one hundred persons were gathered.

(A comma follows a phrase that ends with a number or a date.)

To Prevent Confusion

Behind Ben, Stanley paced back and forth.

(Without the comma, the reader may think Ben Stanley is the name of one person.)

Never place a comma after phrases followed immediately by a verb.

In the center of the room were the tests.

(No comma is used because the verb follows the introductory phrases.)

● Practice Your Skills

Using Commas

Write **a** or **b** to of commas.

- a.** Now, th
b. Now thi
- a.** Without
b. Withou
- a.** Since th
b. Since tl
- a.** Reading
b. Reading
- a.** Along w
b. Along v
- a.** After st
b. After st
- a.** Now is
b. Now, is
- a.** In the l
b. In the l
- a.** During
b. During

● Connect to Writing

Using Commas

Write each ser does not need

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- After Eng
- According
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- While I w
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Practice Your Skills

Using Commas with Introductory Structures

Write **a** or **b** to indicate which sentence in each pair shows the correct use of commas.

1. **a.** Now, this is your last chance.
b. Now this, is your last chance.
2. **a.** Without studying, for the test you cannot hope to pass.
b. Without studying for the test, you cannot hope to pass.
3. **a.** Since the beginning of the year, Sheila has been using Gary's notes.
b. Since the beginning, of the year Sheila has been using Gary's notes.
4. **a.** Reading far into the night we often had to stop, and rest.
b. Reading far into the night, we often had to stop and rest.
5. **a.** Along with Jan Jo decided to stop studying.
b. Along with Jan, Jo decided to stop studying.
6. **a.** After studying for eight hours straight, we were exhausted.
b. After studying for eight hours straight we were exhausted.
7. **a.** Now is the time to take the test.
b. Now, is the time to take the test.
8. **a.** In the back of the room were some extra pencils.
b. In the back of the room, were some extra pencils.
9. **a.** During a test I feel more confident if I have studied.
b. During a test, I feel more confident if I have studied.

Connect to Writing: Editing

Using Commas with Introductory Structures

Write each sentence, adding a comma or commas where needed. If a sentence does not need any commas, write **C** for correct.

1. Among the thirty-five students in our class twenty-five got an A on the test.
2. After English math is my favorite subject.
3. According to Mrs. Wood Shakespeare was the greatest playwright ever.
4. Dating back to the sixteenth century Shakespeare's work contains themes that still apply today.
5. While I was studying for my English test I discovered that my notes were incomplete.

➔ Commonly Used Commas

There are a few other rules for commas that you use almost daily.

With Dates and Addresses

As we have seen, commas are used to separate various elements in sentences, such as items in a series and introductory structures. Commas serve the same separating function in dates and addresses.

21 E Use commas to separate the elements in dates and addresses.

Notice in the following examples that a comma is used to separate a date or an address from the rest of the sentence. No comma, however, separates the state and the ZIP code.

Date	On Saturday, March 9, 1991, my parents were married in a small ceremony.
Address	We are ordering invitations for an anniversary party from Paper Products, 1330 West 11th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, today.

When only the month and year are stated, the commas may be omitted.

- My parents were married in March 1991.
- By July 1976, my aunt and uncle were married as well.

In Letters

Commas are also used to separate the salutation and the closing from the body of a letter.

21 E Use a comma after the salutation of a friendly letter and after the closing of all letters.

SALUTATIONS AND CLOSINGS

Salutations	Dear Mom,	Dear Kathy,
Closings	Love,	Sincerely yours,

Often the use of too many commas is as confusing as not using enough commas. Use commas only where a rule indicates they are needed.

Practice Your Skills

Using Commas

Write **a** or **b** for the correct use of commas.

1. **a.** On March 9, 1991, my parents were married in a small ceremony.
b. On March 9, 1991 my parents were married in a small ceremony.
2. **a.** Belfasco Products, 1330 West 11th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, today.
b. Belfasco Products, 1330 West 11th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 today.
3. **a.** Send me a record.
AL 36
b. Send me a record.
AL 36
4. **a.** I was married in March 1991.
a record
b. I was married in March 1991.
a record
5. **a.** In October, my aunt and uncle were married as well.
b. In October my aunt and uncle were married as well.
6. **a.** All friends were invited to the party.
desk
b. All friends were invited to the party.
desk
7. **a.** On March 9, 1991, my parents were married in a small ceremony.
b. On March 9, 1991 my parents were married in a small ceremony.

Practice Your Skills

Using Commas

Write **a** or **b** to indicate which sentence in each pair shows the correct use of commas.

1. **a.** On March 12 1888, a terrible blizzard struck New York City.
b. On March 12, 1888, a terrible blizzard struck New York City.
2. **a.** Belfast, Ireland, is the largest linen manufacturer in the world.
b. Belfast Ireland, is the largest linen manufacturer in the world.
3. **a.** Send all travel inquiries to Martha Witt, 3297 Princeton Drive, Mobile, AL 36618, before May 1.
b. Send all travel inquiries to Martha Witt 3297 Princeton Drive, Mobile AL 36618, before May 1.
4. **a.** I was amazed to learn that the temperature near Death Valley reached a record high of 134 degrees in July 1913.
b. I was amazed to learn that the temperature near Death Valley reached a record high of 134 degrees in July, 1913.
5. **a.** In October 1908 Henry Ford, introduced his famous Model T Ford.
b. In October 1908, Henry Ford introduced his famous Model T Ford.
6. **a.** All final sales reports for the past season are due on Mrs. Johannsen's desk by Friday, February 6.
b. All final sales reports for the past season are due on Mrs. Johannsen's desk by Friday February, 6.
7. **a.** On May 14, 1948, the new state of Israel was proclaimed in Tel Aviv.
b. On May 14, 1948 the new state of Israel, was proclaimed in Tel Aviv.



Connect to Writing: Editing

Using Commas in a Letter

Rewrite the following letter, adding commas where needed.

1251 Smith Street
Dimebox TX 78934
March 15 2012

Dear Beth

We have been looking forward to your visit. It is hard to believe that a year has passed since you were here.

Mom says to tell you that you can take a cab from the airport to Aunt Velma's house. Just tell the driver that 642 Main Street Selma Texas is the address.

I can hardly wait to see you.

Your cousin

Sara

Check Point: Mixed Practice

Write the paragraph that follows, adding commas where needed.

On May 6 1929 a group of athletes lined up at City Hall in New York City. They were waiting for the start of a footrace across the country to San Francisco California. Among the eager group of participants was sixty-year-old Abraham Lincoln Monteverde. Although he was older than the other contestants he was a competitor to be reckoned with. Monteverde had been running for years and he had completed more than one hundred marathons.

Connect to Speaking and Listening: Vocabulary

Understanding Ways to Use Commas

In the preceding pages you have learned and applied several new terms, such as *items in a series* and *introductory structures* (which include prepositional phrases, participial phrases, and adverbial clauses). Talk to a partner about what these terms mean and how you use them in writing. Then give your partner a test by reading a passage that contains introductory structures and a series of items, and ask your partner to tell you where to insert the commas. Take turns doing this a few times.

Commas

If an interrupter is needed to set off words or phrases, use commas.

21 Commas are used to set off a series of items.

➔ Direct Address

Names, titles, or other words used to address someone directly. These expressions are set off by commas.

21 Use commas to set off direct address.

..... Randy, did you see that?
..... The play was fantastic.
..... Thanks for everything.

➔ Parenthetical Expressions

A parenthetical expression is a word, phrase, or clause that is not essential to the meaning of the sentence. These expressions are set off by commas.

21 Use commas to set off parenthetical expressions.

..... Consequently, the project was delayed.
..... Mona, like all the other students, was excited.
..... Reserved for the future.

The following

Commas That Enclose Lesson 3

If an interrupting word or words come in the middle of a sentence, two commas are needed to set off the interrupter from the rest of the sentence. If the interrupting word or words come at the beginning or end of a sentence, only one comma is needed.

Commas are used to set off some phrases or clauses that interrupt the flow of a sentence.

➔ Direct Address

Names, titles, or other words used to address someone directly are set off by commas. These expressions are called nouns of direct address.

Use commas to set off nouns of direct address.

Randy, do you know who got the part?

The players, Mr. Director, are ready.

Thanks for the theater tickets, my friends.

➔ Parenthetical Expressions

A parenthetical expression provides additional information that can easily be removed without changing the meaning of a sentence.

Use commas to set off parenthetical expressions.

Consequently, the show started two hours late.

Mona, like Samantha, is a soprano.

Reserved seats are extra, according to the brochure.

The following list contains common parenthetical expressions.

COMMON PARENTHETICAL EXPRESSIONS

after all	for instance	of course
at any rate	generally speaking	on the contrary
by the way	I believe	on the other hand
consequently	I guess (hope, know, think)	moreover
however	in fact	nevertheless
for example	in my opinion	to tell the truth

Occasionally, one of the parenthetical expressions listed in the box above does not interrupt a sentence. In that case, the expression should not be enclosed in commas.

Commas	The actors, I believe , are not ready. (<i>I believe</i> interrupts the sentence.)
No Commas	I believe everything you said. (<i>I believe</i> is necessary for the meaning of the sentence.)

Contrasting expressions, which usually begin with *not*, are also considered parenthetical expressions.

- Dramas, **not comedies**, are her favorite plays.
- Renee, **not I**, wants to be an actress.

➔ **Appositives**

An **appositive** with its modifiers identifies or explains a noun or pronoun in a sentence.

Use commas to set off most **appositives** and their modifiers.

- Mr. Roberts, **our drama coach**, just got married.
- We listened to "Memory," **a song from *Cats***.

Titles and degrees that

- Lawrence T. Ma
- Jennifer Morga

Commas are not used with the question *Which* or no modifiers.

- I enjoyed the p
- The color **blue**

You can learn more about

● **Practice Your Skills**
Using Commas

Write *a* or *b* for the correct use of commas.

- a.** Mr. D. wants
b. Mr. D. wants
- a.** A mu:
b. A mu
- a.** Randy
b. Randy
- a.** Have
b. Have
- a.** Maria
b. Maria
- a.** I hop
b. I hop
- a.** Julia,
b. Julia
- a.** My ol
b. My ol

Titles and degrees that follow a name are set off by commas.

- Lawrence T. Mahoney, **Jr.**, was elected drama club treasurer.
- Jennifer Morgan, **Ph.D.**, will introduce the show.

Commas are not used with an appositive if it identifies a person or thing by answering the question *Which one?* or *Which ones?* Usually these appositives are names and have no modifiers.

- I enjoyed the play *Hamlet*. (Which play?)
- The color **blue** has many shades. (Which color?)

You can learn more about appositives on pages 61 and 629.

Practice Your Skills

Using Commas with Interrupters

Write **a** or **b** to indicate which sentence in each pair shows the correct use of commas.

1. **a.** Mr. Donaldson, the most ambitious drama coach at our school, wants to direct a musical.
b. Mr. Donaldson, the most ambitious drama coach at our school wants to direct a musical.
2. **a.** A musical is after all, one of the most challenging forms of theater.
b. A musical is, after all, one of the most challenging forms of theater.
3. **a.** Randy, not Stewart, is being considered for the lead.
b. Randy not Stewart, is being considered for the lead.
4. **a.** Have you ever heard him sing Mara?
b. Have you ever heard him sing, Mara?
5. **a.** Maria, is Dr. Angelo S. DeVito Jr. your voice coach or your acting coach?
b. Maria, is Dr. Angelo S. DeVito, Jr., your voice coach or your acting coach?
6. **a.** I hope everyone will work hard on the musical.
b. I hope, everyone will work hard on the musical.
7. **a.** Julia, has had many more years of performing experience moreover.
b. Julia has had many more years of performing experience, moreover.
8. **a.** My oldest brother not Joey hopes to work on the stage crew.
b. My oldest brother, not Joey, hopes to work on the stage crew.

Connect to Writing: Editing

Using Commas with Interrupters

Write each sentence, adding a comma or commas where needed. If a sentence does not need any commas, write **C** for correct.

1. Despite popular belief many theater superstitions are completely unfounded.
2. The play *Macbeth* is thought to be cursed.
3. Jennifer please post the cast list for the musical.
4. Stewart not Malcom got a role in the new musical.
5. Tracy Bedford Ph.D. will attend our evening performance.

➔ Nonessential Elements



Use commas to set off nonessential participial phrases and nonessential clauses. A participial phrase or a clause is **nonessential**, or **nonrestrictive**, if it provides extra, unnecessary information.

Sometimes a participial phrase or a relative clause is not essential to the meaning of a sentence. As a test, read the sentence without the phrase or clause. If the phrase or the clause could be removed without changing the basic meaning of the sentence, it is nonessential. A phrase or clause that modifies a proper noun is almost always nonessential.

Nonessential Participial Phrase

Roy Pierce, **standing by the door**, is a Revolutionary War expert.

(*Roy Pierce is a Revolutionary War expert* is the only essential information in this sentence.)

Nonessential Adjectival Clause

In school we studied the Declaration of Independence, **which was written in 1776**.

(*In school we studied the Declaration of Independence* is the only essential information in this sentence.)



No commas are used if a participial phrase or a clause is **restrictive** or **essential** to the meaning of a sentence.

An essential phrase or clause usually identifies a person or thing and answers the question *Which one?* Adjectival clauses that begin with *that* are usually essential.

Essential Participial Phrase

Essential Adjectival Clause

Practice Your

Using Commas

Write **a** or **commas**.

1. a. The by c
b. The by
2. a. Ge bec
b. Ge thi
3. a. Th
b. Th
4. a. Ph De
b. Ph De

Connect to Writing Ab

Write a s abuses o in using correctly be helpf ways the

Essential Adjectival Clause

The Betsy Ross story **that you told** was fascinating.
(*That you told* is essential because it tells which Betsy Ross story was fascinating.)

Using Commas with Nonrestrictive Phrases and Clauses

b. Philadelphia which is called the City of Brotherly Love is where the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Writing About Commas

Write a short essay for a younger student in which you explain the uses and abuses of the often overlooked comma. Share any of your own experiences in using and misusing the comma, and give helpful hints for using commas correctly. Supply any drawings, charts, tables, or diagrams that you feel would be helpful. Most important of all, use commas in your essay in as many different ways that you have learned about as you possibly can.

Connect to Writing: Editing

Using Commas with Nonrestrictive Phrases and Clauses

Write the paragraphs below, adding commas where needed.

It is said that before the Declaration of Independence was signed, three men visited a woman named Betsy Ross. She was a seamstress in Philadelphia. These men were members of the flag committee of the Continental Congress commissioned in 1776. The men asked her to sew the first flag which was sketched on a piece of paper.

In fact, there was no official flag committee in 1776, and this event may have never happened. Almost one hundred years later, William J. Canby who was Betsy Ross's grandson first told the story about his grandmother's making the flag. However, there is no written proof, and none of Betsy's other relatives ever remember seeing her make the first Stars and Stripes!

Check Point: Mixed Practice

Write the paragraph below, adding commas where needed.

At the closing ceremony of the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm Sweden the King of Sweden spoke with Jim Thorpe a young American Indian. The king praised Thorpe for being the greatest athlete in the world and the American certainly was. Thorpe who had studied at Carlisle Institute excelled in boxing wrestling lacrosse gymnastics swimming hockey handball football track and baseball. Indeed many authorities rate Thorpe as the finest football player who ever lived. Playing on his college team Thorpe scored 25 touchdowns and made 198 points in a single season. When Thorpe was 32 he got into professional football and pro football's Hall of Fame eventually made him a member.

Connect to Writing: Letter

Using Commas with Nonrestrictive Phrases and Clauses

On a train ride into the city, you strike up a conversation with the person sitting next to you. The person looks and sounds familiar, and at a certain point you realize you are chatting with your favorite radio personality. You want to share this fascinating exchange, so you decide to write an account of the event in a letter to your friends and family. Write your letter, being sure to use commas with participial phrases and adjectival clauses.

Chapter 21

Assess Your

Using Commas

Write each

1. Everyone
2. He was
3. For ma
4. Eventu
and chi
5. While I
a magr
6. Morse
receive
7. With fu
dots ar
8. His fir
9. Years p
10. A publi
11. A long
and W
12. The te
13. Yes Mc
14. By the
the glc
15. Forget
only al

Assess Your Learning

Using Commas Correctly

Write each sentence, adding commas where needed.

1. Everyone has heard of Samuel F. B. Morse the inventor of the telegraph.
2. He was born on April 27 1791 in Charlestown MA.
3. For many years during his life Morse was a respectable gifted painter.
4. Eventually he became tired of painting portraits of men women and children.
5. While he was on a trip from France to New York Morse got the idea for a magnetic telegraph.
6. Morse created a prototype which used magnetic transmitters and receivers to send signals across a wire.
7. With further work on his invention he then developed a language of dots and dashes known as Morse Code.
8. His first efforts to sell his invention however were met with disbelief.
9. Years passed but he finally secured money from Congress.
10. A public test of his telegraph was held on May 24 1844.
11. A long-distance wire was strung between posts in Baltimore Maryland and Washington D.C.
12. The test was a great success and Morse became quite famous after that.
13. Yes Morse also became a rich man.
14. By the time Morse died in 1872 the telegraph was being used around the globe.
15. Forgetting about his early career as a painter the history books talk only about Mr. Morse the inventor.

Understanding Kinds of Sentences and End Marks

Write an appropriate end mark for each sentence. Then label each sentence *declarative*, *imperative*, *interrogative*, or *exclamatory*.

1. Be prepared for some surprises
2. For example, is a peanut a nut
3. No, it's a seed like a pea or a bean, but it looks and tastes like a nut
4. Have you ever wondered why root beer has the word *root* in it
5. Take a good guess
6. Yes, root beer is made from a root, the root of the sassafras tree
7. When you eat mushrooms, you're not eating a plant; you're eating a fungus
8. Does the cinnamon you sprinkle on applesauce come from a cinnamon plant
9. No, cinnamon actually comes from the bark of the cinnamon tree
10. Be careful what you eat in the future

Writing Sentences with Commas

Write sentences that follow the directions below.

1. Write a sentence that includes a series of nouns.
2. Write a sentence that includes two or more adjectives before a noun.
3. Write a sentence that has two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction.
4. Write a sentence that includes an introductory participial phrase.
5. Write a sentence that includes an introductory adverbial clause.

End Marks

Directions

Read the passage of the correct wa

On (1) June 2 Herzegovina, that Franz Ferdinand v (4) many who we wanted to discipli ultimatum demar

1. A June 28 19
B June 28, 19
C June, 28, 19
D No error
2. A Sarajevo, th
B Sarajevo, th
C Sarajevo th
D No error
3. A Austria, Arc
B Austria, Arc
C Austria Arc
D No error
4. A many, who
B many who,
C many who '
D No error
5. A Serbian nat
B Serbian nat
C Serbian nat
D No error