

Exercises for Tutorial 11. Using Commas

Principle I: Use commas to separate more than two items in a series of words, phrases, or clauses.

Principle II: Use a comma before a coordinator when joining two complete sentences.

Exercise 1

Instructions: Using Principles I and II, insert commas wherever they are needed in the sentences below. The first sentence has been done for you. *Either answer CORRECT, or type, write, or copy-paste and revise in the answer boxes.*

1. He was happy during the Bay to Breakers race since he enjoyed the good weather ran with the fastest finished in the top ten and celebrated with his friends.

He was happy during the Bay to Breakers race since he **enjoyed the good weather, ran with the fastest, finished in the top ten, and celebrated with his friends.**

2. George flew to San Diego got married in a park celebrated with his family and friends and he went to Italy for his honeymoon.

3. After doing research on environmental issues, Enrique was angry about the voting records of the senators the policies of the governor and the legislation of the president.

4. Marco liked the decor of the restaurant delicious appetizers variety of entrees extensive wine list and excellent service.

5. Megan likes granola bars for breakfast because they are tasty rich in fiber and low in calories but she has a bad habit of skipping lunch.

6. The lyrics of Lennon and McCartney are beautiful yet the songs of Keith Richards and Mick Jagger are much more compelling.

Principle III: Use a comma to set off introductory words, phrases, or clauses.

Exercise 2

Instructions: Using Principles I, II, and III, insert commas wherever they are needed in the sentences below. *Type, write, or copy-paste and revise in the answer boxes.*

introductory phrase

Examples: In the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Shakespeare uses several sets of couples to dramatize the tribulations and triumphs of love.

introductory phrase

To be honest, Brian revealed that he did not write the essay, for he asked his sister to write it for him.

introductory clause

Because his parents are so strict, Mohammed decided not to tell them that he was going to the rock concert at the Fillmore.

1. After learning of the death of his father Hamlet returns to the Danish court to find Claudius ruling Denmark and Hamlet discovers that Claudius is married to Hamlet's mother Gertrude.

2. To perform well on the SAT exam students must get a good night's rest eat a hearty breakfast come on time and listen carefully to the instructions.

3. Once Jonny graduated college he vowed never to go back to school.

4. In the play *Madame Butterfly* Cio-Cio-San cannot go on living once Pinkerton takes her son so after bidding the child farewell Butterfly does not hesitate and takes her life with the same dagger her own father had used to commit suicide.

5. If you're a fan of the outdoors you'll enjoy exploring the trails at Point Lobos.

6. If you want to preserve tomatoes by canning them harvest while they are still firm for soft tomatoes may contain harmful bacteria that can spoil the contents.

Exercise 3

Instructions: Using Principles I, II, and III, write six sentences with two sentences for each comma rule. *Type or write in the answer boxes.*

Principle I: In each sentence, use a comma to separate more than two items in a series of words, phrases, or clauses.

Principle II: In each sentence, use a comma *before* a coordinator (coordinating conjunctions or FANBOYS) when joining two complete sentences.

Principle III: In each sentence, use a comma to set off introductory words, phrases, or clauses.

Principle IV: Use a comma to set off nonessential words, phrases, or clauses when the word or group of words interrupts the main idea.

Exercise 4

Instructions: Using Principles I, II, III, and IV, insert commas wherever they are needed in the sentences below. The first sentence has been done for you. *Type, write, or copy-paste and revise in the answer boxes.*

1. Michael Winterbottom's films which are most notably 1997's *Welcome to Sarajevo* and 2002's *24 Hour Party People* are beloved by art-house patrons for their varied subject matter dark moods and unscripted meanderings but, unfortunately, they have not been box office successes that generate Oscar talk.

Michael Winterbottom's films, which are most notably 1997's *Welcome to Sarajevo* and 2002's *24 Hour Party People*, are beloved by art-house patrons for their varied subject matter, dark moods, and unscripted meanderings, but, unfortunately, they have not been box office successes that generate Oscar talk.

2. The county position offers a great salary retirement plan affordable housing and a beautiful location and as an added bonus some new hiring incentives may apply.

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3. Jim Henson who worked professionally as a television puppeteer while he was still in high school and who as early as the 1950s created proto-Muppets that included an early incarnation of Kermit the Frog became perhaps the most famous puppet purveyor in history with "Sesame Street" "The Muppet Show" and a series of box office hits featuring the Muppets.

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4. At the Cliff House the long mahogany bar which takes up most of the room was packed with wine sippers in lively conversation. As we were led through the first of the two narrow dining rooms to a cozy window table we thanked ourselves for having planned ahead.

5. Over the past few years studies have suggested that caffeine is capable of staving off baldness lowering the risks of Parkinson's disease killing off skin cancer cells reducing cellulite and firming facial skin.

6. Lined by cottonwoods the Snake River shimmering and slithering along the floor of Jackson Hole reflects the high sun of a lazy sunny afternoon.

Principle V: Use commas to separate items in dates, geographical places, addresses, and numbers.

Exercise 5

Instructions: Using Principles I through V, insert commas wherever they are needed in the sentences below. *Type, write, or copy-paste and revise in the answer boxes.*

Example: With a diameter of 2160 miles the Earth's moon is one of the largest in our solar system and it is about one quarter of the diameter of the Earth.

With a diameter of **2,160 miles,** the Earth's moon is one of the largest in our solar system, and it is about one quarter of the diameter of the Earth.

1. As Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin stepped onto the moon on July 20 1969 an estimated 600 million people were watching.

2. Do you know what happened on July 4 1776?

3. Temple University is located in Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

4. Pearl Harbor was bombed I think on Sunday December 7 1941.

5. In April 2007 Hugh Grant 32 was arrested after he allegedly chased kicked and threw a can of baked beans at photographer Ian Whittaker and then he cursed the photographer's children.

6. For more than 10 years the Garcias have owned a vacation cabin in McCall Idaho a lakeside town of 2500 residents and in 2006 the couple bought a 2000-square-foot vacation home at Hearthstone a community in McCall for around \$125000.

7. The Earth is about 7926 miles in diameter and it is the fifth largest planet in our solar system after Jupiter Saturn Uranus and Neptune.

8. Bill Walsh the imaginative and charismatic coach who took over a downtrodden 49ers died July 30 2007 at his home in Woodside California at the age of 75 after a three-year struggle with leukemia.