

Punctuation in Compound and Complex Sentences

Commas and semicolons are punctuation marks used to separate three or more items within a series or list. A semicolon, however, is used when the items in the series contain a comma.

commas in a series

I ate a sandwich, an apple, and celery for lunch.

semicolons in a series

We will meet in the cafeteria on Wednesday,
February 7; Friday, February 9; and Monday,
February 12.

Punctuation in Compound and Complex Sentences

A compound sentence has two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction and a comma. A complex sentence has one dependent clause joined to an independent clause, separated by a comma.

independent clause *comma and conjunction* *independent clause*

Layla reads a novel, but Jack watches TV.

dependent clause

comma

independent clause

Although Layla asked Jack to be quiet, he turned up the volume.

Punctuation in Compound and Complex Sentences

Identify the correct punctuation to use in each sentence.

- 1 I'd like to read another chapter but I don't have time.
- 2 My favorite genres are science fiction fantasy and mysteries.
- 3 Although Casey likes to read he didn't like the new book.
- 4 Book club meets on Thursday March 22 Tuesday March 27 and Friday April 2.
- 5 Tom enjoys action stories and Elisa likes romance stories.

Punctuation in Compound and Complex Sentences

Identify the correct punctuation to use in each sentence.

- 1 I'd like to read another chapter but I don't have time. *I'd like to read another chapter, but I don't have time.*
- 2 My favorite genres are science fiction fantasy and mysteries. *My favorite genres are science fiction, fantasy, and mysteries.*
- 3 Although Casey likes to read he didn't like the new book. *Although Casey likes to read, he didn't like the new book.*
- 4 Book club meets on Thursday March 22 Tuesday March 27 and Friday April 2. *Book club meets on Thursday, March 22; Tuesday, March 27; and Friday, April 2.*
- 5 Tom enjoys action stories and Elisa likes romance stories. *Tom enjoys action stories, and Elisa likes romance stories.*

Punctuation in Compound and Complex Sentences

A **compound sentence** has two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction and a comma. A **complex sentence** has one dependent clause joined to an independent clause, separated by a comma.

Commas are also used to separate three or more items within a series or list. A semicolon, however, is used when the items in the series or list contain a comma.

> Rewrite each sentence using the correct punctuation.

1. I want to go to the movies but I don't know the movie times.

2. Although it was very cold outside Jathiya decided not to wear a coat.

3. I like to read books watch movies and play basketball.

4. We can hold the meeting on Tuesday March 20 Thursday March 22 or Wednesday March 28.

5. If you go to the store you should buy some apples strawberries and pears.

> Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft to make sure all compound and complex sentences have the correct punctuation.

Introductory Elements

Introductory elements are words, phrases, or clauses that appear at the beginning of a sentence. They add information, but they are set off by commas to show that they are not part of the main sentence.

introductory phrase

On the first page, there was a list of important dates.

Introductory Elements

Identify each introductory element. Tell whether it needs a comma.

- 1 In October we started our unit on the Revolutionary War.
- 2 At the beginning of the war the British promised freedom to enslaved African Americans if they would join their army.
- 3 Well some African Americans did not believe that the British would keep their promise.
- 4 Unfortunately others did believe the British, who ended up losing the war.
- 5 By the end of the war thousands of African Americans had been killed.
- 6 Yes but even more had fought bravely to achieve independence from British rules.

Introductory Elements

Identify each introductory element. Tell whether it needs a comma.

- 1 In October we started our unit on the Revolutionary War. *In October; no comma needed*
- 2 At the beginning of the war the British promised freedom to enslaved African Americans if they would join their army. *At the beginning of the war; no comma needed*
- 3 Well some African Americans did not believe that the British would keep their promise. *Well; comma needed*
- 4 Unfortunately others did believe the British, who ended up losing the war. *Unfortunately; comma needed*
- 5 By the end of the war thousands of African Americans had been killed. *By the end of the war; comma needed*
- 6 Yes but even more had fought bravely to achieve independence from British rules. *Yes; comma needed*

Introductory Elements

Introductory elements are words, phrases, or clauses that appear at the beginning of a sentence. They add information, but they are not part of the main sentence. To show they are introductory elements, they are set off by commas.

introductory word

Truly, I believe it is important to know about James Forten and other patriots.

➤ **Underline each introductory word or phrase. Then correctly punctuate the sentence.**

1. Like James Forten, many successful African Americans worked to abolish slavery.
2. For example, Frederick Douglass, who lived in the 1800s, became a famous abolitionist.
3. At the time, it was difficult for African Americans to become successful.
4. For many African Americans, going to school was not an option.
5. In fact, enslaved people could be punished for learning to read and write.
6. Well, that is because education opens people's eyes to what is right and wrong.
7. As a result, they may recognize injustice and work for change.
8. "Yes, you are right. That makes me appreciate my education more."
9. Well, there is always more to learn.
10. In my opinion, Frederick Douglass continues to an inspiration.

➤ **Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft to make sure introductory elements are used correctly.**

Commas with Direct Address and Tag Questions

Commas are used to set off names or nouns that indicate **direct address**. Direct address is when someone is being spoken to within a sentence. If the name appears in the middle of the sentence, commas should be placed before and after it.

Commas are also used to separate or set off **tag questions**, or short questions that may appear at the end of sentences.

direct address

tag question

Leo, I enjoyed that history unit, **didn't you?**

Commas with Direct Address and Tag Questions

Identify each direct address or tag question. Tell where the comma should go.

- 1 George Washington Carver was an amazing man wasn't he?
- 2 Sandra did you read the same book I did?
- 3 You have time to ask questions class before you take the test.
- 4 I wondered if there were other African American inventors like George Washington Carver that we could read about Ms. Temple.
- 5 I will give you a reading list at the end of class Jack.
- 6 That would be great wouldn't it?

Commas with Direct Address and Tag Questions

Identify each direct address or tag question. Tell where the comma should go.

- 1 George Washington Carver was an amazing man wasn't he?
George Washington Carver was an amazing man, wasn't he?
- 2 Sandra did you read the same book I did?
Sandra, did you read the same book I did?
- 3 You have time to ask questions class before you take the test.
You have time to ask questions, class, before you take the test.
- 4 I wondered if there were other African American inventors like George Washington Carver that we could read about Ms. Temple. I wondered if there were other African American inventors like George Washington Carver that we could read about, Ms. Temple.
- 5 I will give you a reading list at the end of class Jack.
I will give you a reading list at the end of class, Jack.
- 6 That would be great wouldn't it?
That would be great, wouldn't it?

Commas with Direct Address and Tag Questions

Commas are used to set off names that indicate direct address, or someone being spoken to. If the name appears in the middle of the sentence, commas should be placed both before and after it.

Commas are also used to set off short questions that appear at the end of sentences.

direct address**tag question**

Class, take out your history books, would you please?

➤ Rewrite each sentence with the correct punctuation.

1. "Please pass me the index cards Roberto."

2. "I want to get started on my research don't you?"

3. "Tara said the paper is due tomorrow Bill."

4. "I need to find one more web site Andrea before I can begin to write."

5. "You should have all your research done by now shouldn't you?"

➤ Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft to make sure all commas are used correctly.

Review Commas and Semicolons

Both **commas** (,) and **semicolons** (;) are punctuation marks used within sentences. They help readers understand the meaning of a sentence by clearly separating different parts.

Separate items in a series or list: We need eggs, milk, and bread.

Set off introductory words and phrases: By 1871, the war was almost over.

Indicate a name used in direct address: Maria, can you imagine being on a ship in the middle of a battle?

Set off a tag question at the end of a sentence: That was an important battle, wasn't it?

Separate items in a series or list with commas: We need eggs, milk, and bread; we also need soap, shampoo, and lotion.

Review Commas and Semicolons

Identify the correct punctuation to use in each sentence.

- 1 Reading biographies is a good way to learn about history don't you think?
- 2 We visited museums in Boston Massachusetts Cleveland Ohio and San Francisco California.
- 3 Take more photos James and hurry.
- 4 Although the trip to San Francisco was long it was worth it.
- 5 Claudio enjoyed the museum but Asako preferred the reenactment.

Review Commas and Semicolons

Identify the correct punctuation to use in each sentence.

- 1 Reading biographies is a good way to learn about history don't you think?
Reading biographies is a good way to learn about history, don't you think?
- 2 We visited museums in Boston Massachusetts Cleveland Ohio and San Francisco California. *We visited museums in Boston, Massachusetts; Cleveland, Ohio; and San Francisco, California.*
- 3 Take more photos James and hurry. *Take more photos, James, and hurry.*
- 4 Although the trip to San Francisco was long it was worth it. *Although the trip to San Francisco was long, it was worth it.*
- 5 Claudio enjoyed the museum but Asako preferred the reenactment. *Claudio enjoyed the museum, but Asako preferred the reenactment.*

Review Commas and Semicolons

Both commas (,) and semicolons (;) are punctuation marks used within sentences. They help readers understand the meaning of a sentence by clearly separating different parts.

> Rewrite each sentence using the correct punctuation.

1. Reading is a good way to learn about other people don't you think?

2. Yes you can find cookbooks reference books and the newest novels at the library.

3. Miguel find a book about the Revolutionary War will you?

4. The library will be closed on Monday April 2 Monday May 28 and Wednesday July 4.

5. Although the book I wanted has been checked out I found a book to read.

> Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft to make sure all commas and semicolons are used correctly.

Connect to Writing: Using Commas and Semicolons

Omitting or misplacing **commas** and **semicolons** can confuse your readers. When you proofread your writing, make sure the different parts of your sentences are separated with the correct punctuation marks. Also make sure that you have not inserted commas or semicolons where they do not belong.

Incorrect Punctuation	Correct Punctuation
<p>Although the captain steered the boat well it was a scary journey. We encountered fierce wind mammoth waves and freezing rain didn't we?</p>	<p>Although the captain steered the boat well, it was a scary journey. We encountered fierce wind, mammoth waves, and freezing rain, didn't we?</p>

Connect to Writing: Using Commas and Semicolons

➤ Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Lester wrote a report about James Forten. Read his paragraph and look for any revisions he should make. Then answer the questions that follow.

James Forten

(1) I have read about some exceptional Americans. (2) For example James Forten fought in the war built up a business and worked to abolish slavery. (3) At the time he lived African Americans had few rights or opportunities. (4) In my mind this makes him even more extraordinary.

1. Sentence 2 contains an error. Which of the following ways could you rewrite the sentence?
 - A. For example, James Forten fought in the war, built up a business, and worked to abolish slavery.
 - B. For example James Forten fought in the war, built up a business, and worked to abolish slavery.
 - C. For example James Forten fought, in the war built, up a business and, worked to abolish slavery.
 - D. Make no change.
2. What change, if any, should be made to Sentence 3?
 - A. Add a comma after *lived*.
 - B. Add a comma after *time*.
 - C. Add a comma after *rights*.
 - D. Make no change.

➤ What famous person do you admire? Write two or three sentences about him or her.
