



Commas and Colons and Semicolons Quiz

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T/F Commas clarify meaning and set sentence meter for readers.

Commas are used:

- To separate items in a list
- After longer introductory phrases and clauses
- After shorter introductory phrases and clauses if necessary to avoid confusion
- To set off nonrestrictive (nonessential) clauses from the rest of a sentence
- All of the above

Are these sentences punctuated correctly? Indicate which ones are correct and fix the errors on the incorrect sentences.

- ♣ I can't believe you went to Disneyland, Six Flags, and Universal Studios all in one day!
- ♣ After we completed our whirlwind visit to all three amusement parks we fell into a dead sleep for 12 hours.
- ♣ To Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse is no stranger.
- ♣ He likes mustard onions and chili on his hotdogs.
- ♣ To chili, hotdogs are a natural accompaniment.
- ♣ My favorite roller coaster, the Raging Bull, was shut down for the day.

T/F To determine whether a phrase, clause or modifier is essential or not, read the sentence without it to see if the sentence makes sense. If it does, the phrase is nonessential.

T/F To determine whether modifiers are coordinate or not, insert "and" between them. If the sentence still makes sense, the comma is required.

Commas are used:

- To set off parenthetical phrases
- To separate coordinate modifiers
- To set off participial phrases that modify part of an independent clause
- To separate two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction
- All of the above

Are these sentences punctuated correctly? Indicate which ones are correct and fix the errors in the incorrect sentences.

- ♣ How, we thought to ourselves, did we survive Disneyland, Six Flags, and Universal Studios all in one day?
- ♣ I can't believe he groaned silently I ate so many hotdogs.
- ♣ Disneyland is a fun expensive place.
- ♣ He eats only roasted Hebrew National hotdogs.
- ♣ We slept like babies that night, having visited all three amusement parks.
- ♣ He had a horrible stomach ache having eaten six hotdogs.
- ♣ We knew it would be a long day, but we decided to go to all three amusement parks anyway.
- ♣ He roasted five hotdogs at the bonfire and he also set a hay bale on fire.

Colons are used:

- To introduce a quotation longer than one sentence
- To end a paragraph that introduces a quotation in the next paragraph
- To introduce the text of questions and answers
- To show times
- To show citations

Are these sentences punctuated correctly? Indicate which ones are correct and fix the errors in the incorrect sentences.

- ♣ The attendant looked straight at us and said: "This ride is not for sissies. It is a high speed thrill ride.
- ♣ After he won the hotdog eating contest, he prepared to make his speech "I trained long and hard for this event," he began. "I knew the competition would be tough so I had to be tougher..."



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- ♣ We finished our theme park tour at 115 pm.
- ♣ Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 tells us that there is a season for everything.

Semi-colons are used:

- a. To connect independent clauses and avoid run-on sentences
- b. To separate internally punctuated independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction
- c. To separate items in a list that also include commas
- d. All of the above

Are these sentences punctuated correctly? Indicate which ones are correct and fix the errors in the incorrect sentences.

- ♣ We went to Disneyland we had a great time.
- ♣ He ate six hotdogs; he also got a stomach ache.
- ♣ Skipping the Cinderella parade, which was much too long, we went to The Haunted Mansion and we were able to walk right on without waiting in line.
- ♣ After finishing those hotdogs, a feat in itself, he got a stomach ache; and then he went to the hospital to get his stomach pumped.
- ♣ Donald Duck brought his favorite lunch, a sandwich, chips, and crackers; his nephews, Huey, Dewey, and Luey; and his favorite girl Daisy.
- ♣ In order to win the contest, John starved himself for two days, Monday and Tuesday; wore extra large clothes, size 42 jeans and XXL shirt and drank castor oil.