

EXERCISE SHEET: COMMA USAGE

Use this sheet to practice correct comma usage. It would be beneficial to review the Comma Guide before beginning this exercise because this exercise practices the seven comma rules from the guide.

DELETE INCORRECT COMMAS

Some of the following sentences contain incorrect comma usage. Circle or highlight the errors.

Note: not all sentences contain incorrect comma usage.

1. Nathaniel and Colin went to lunch, they had a great time.
2. I will try to get Sarah, and Jane to help me.
3. However, if they cannot help me, I will have to work on my own.
4. Despite my best efforts, I could not complete the assignment in time.
5. The computer, that stopped working belonged to Caleb.
6. Becky was not able to make it to work, because she was sick.
7. After leaving his room, John realized he forgot his wallet.
8. One of the nice things about Regent University, is the community.
9. Tim went to the store, and bought some tea.
10. Brady wanted to watch the game, so he put off his homework.

INSERT MISSING COMMAS

Some of the following sentences are missing commas. Insert a comma when necessary. Note: not all sentences require a comma.

1. Grey bought a mug some chocolate and a snow globe during his trip to the Netherlands.
2. For some reason Hank could not shake the feeling he forgot something important.
3. Before her interview Kana felt nervous.
4. Jason loved music so he decided to start a band.

5. Dorothy traveled to New York to see her favorite musical *Meet Me in St. Louis* performed on Broadway.
6. The recipe called for a simple salt and pepper seasoning.
7. Parmigiano-Reggiano is a dry yet flavorful cheese.
8. Citric acid gives lemons limes and other citrus fruits their unique flavor.
9. Scott's kind sweet grandmother offered to bake him some cookies.
10. Jim never drank the coffee that his coworker gave him for Christmas.

DELETE INCORRECT COMMAS AND INSERT MISSING COMMAS

Some of the following sentences are missing commas. Others contain incorrect comma usage. Insert commas when necessary and circle or highlight incorrect comma usage. Note: Some sentences do not need correction.

1. Samuel despite the wishes of his friends decided to head home early.
2. Lorenz invited Dimitri and Catherine to join him for lunch in the dining hall.
3. After practice Anna made sure to get some homework done.
4. Felix excelled at his coursework, because he spent so much time studying.
5. New York Los Angeles and Chicago are three of the largest cities in the United States.
6. Claude visited Maryland and he made sure to eat some seafood.
7. However he was allergic to shrimp.
8. The teacher stated "This concept may take some practice to fully understand."
9. Danielle enlisted the help of Nick, Margot, and Griff.
10. Before she leaves, for work, Mary always makes sure she has her keys wallet, and purse.

See next page for answers to all three exercises

DELETE INCORRECT COMMAS: ANSWERS

1. Nathaniel and Colin went to lunch, they had a great time.
Answer: Nathaniel and Colin went to lunch, and they had a great time. OR
Answer: Nathaniel and Colin went to lunch. They had a great time.
2. I will try to get Sarah, and Jane to help me.
Answer: I will try to get Sarah and Jane to help me.
3. However, if they cannot help me, I will have to work on my own.
Answer: Correct.
4. Despite my best efforts, I could not complete the assignment in time.
Answer: Correct.
5. The computer, that stopped working belonged to Caleb.
Answer: The computer that stopped working belonged to Caleb.
6. Becky was not able to make it to work, because she was sick.
Answer: Correct.
7. After leaving his room, John realized he forgot his wallet.
Answer: Correct.
8. One of the nice things about Regent University, is the community.
Answer: One of the nice things about Regent University is the community.
9. Tim went to the store, and bought some tea.
Answer: Tim went to the store and bought some tea.
10. Brady wanted to watch the game, so he put off his homework.
Answer: Correct.

INSERT MISSING COMMAS: ANSWERS

1. Grey bought a mug some chocolate and a snow globe during his trip to the Netherlands.
Answer: Grey bought a mug, some chocolate, and a snow globe during his trip to the Netherlands.
2. For some reason Hank could not shake the feeling he forgot something important.
Answer: For some reason, Hank could not shake the feeling he forgot something important.
3. Before her interview Kana felt nervous.
Answer: Before her interview, Kana felt nervous.
4. Jason loved music so he decided to start a band.
Answer: Jason loved music, so he decided to start a band.
5. Dorothy traveled to New York to see her favorite musical *Meet Me in St. Louis* performed on Broadway.

Answer: Dorothy traveled to New York to see her favorite musical, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, performed on Broadway.

6. The recipe called for a simple salt and pepper seasoning.

Answer: Correct.

7. Parmigiano-Reggiano is a **dry yet** flavorful cheese.

Answer: Parmigiano-Reggiano is a dry, yet flavorful cheese.

8. Citric acid gives **lemons limes and** other citrus fruits their unique flavor.

Answer: Citric acid gives lemons, limes, and other citrus fruits their unique flavor.

9. Scott's **kind sweet** grandmother offered to bake him some cookies.

Answer: Scott's kind, sweet grandmother offered to bake him some cookies.

10. Jim never drank the coffee that his coworker gave him for Christmas.

Answer: Correct.

DELETE INCORRECT COMMAS AND INSERT MISSING COMMAS: ANSWERS

1. Samuel **desp**ite the wishes of his friends **s decid**ed to head home early.

Answer: Samuel, despite the wishes of his friends, decided to head home early.

2. Lorenz invited Dimitri and Catherine to join him for lunch in the dining hall.

Answer: Correct.

3. After **practic**e Anna made sure to get some homework done.

Answer: After practice, Anna made sure to get some homework done.

4. Felix excelled at his coursew**ork, beca**use he spent so much time studying.

Answer: Felix excelled at his coursework because he spent so much time studying.

5. New Y**ork Los Angeles** and Chicago are three of the largest cities in the United States.

Answer: New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago are three of the largest cities in the United States.

6. Claude visited Mary**land a**nd he made sure to eat some seafood.

Answer: Claude visited Maryland, and he made sure to eat some seafood.

7. How**ever** he was allergic to shrimp.

Answer: However, he was allergic to shrimp.

8. The teacher **stated** "This concept may take some practice to fully understand."

Answer: The teacher stated, "This concept may take some practice to fully understand."

9. Danielle enlisted the help of Nick, Margot, and Griff.

Answer: Correct.

10. Before she **leaves, for** work, Mary always makes sure she has her **keys wallet**, and purse.

Answer: Before she leaves for work, Mary always makes sure she has her keys, wallet, and purse.