

## Using Commas Correctly

Refer to your handbook and also your notes from class. Punctuate the following sentences correctly and be able to explain the reason for the punctuation: 1) two complete thoughts joined by a conjunction 2) introductory element 3) items in a series or coordinate adjectives 4) unnecessary information in the sentence. If a sentence is correct, write "correct" next to it.

When my mother cooks fried chicken the entire neighborhood begins to drool.

Frank would you please take out the trash?

The new baby sitter the one who lives around the corner is busy this weekend.

Our usual baby sitter is not available because she is sick.

I have tried to schedule the appointment several times and there is always a conflict.

I couldn't find a date for everyone to meet so we are conducting the meeting online.

I am sick and tired of your behavior. It is selfish inconsiderate immature and inappropriate.

Did you see that big fat scary bird flying over the pond?

Everyone who plans to take the regents' exam should register by next week.

My neighbor worried that she might have to be hospitalized wants to make the right decision so she has made an appointment to get a second opinion.

### **Exercises:**

Below are several groups of short sentences. Combine the sentences into one or two longer sentences. Punctuate them correctly. You may not create any comma splices, fused sentences, or fragments. Next to the sentence you created, write the number(s) of the comma rule(s) you use in your sentence: 1) two complete thoughts joined by a conjunction, 2) introductory element 3) items in a series or coordinate adjectives, 4) unnecessary information in the sentence. You may type your answers on this page and print it out, or you may hand write your answers.

The dog was mangy.

The dog was skinny.

The dog was little.

The dog was hungry.

I gave the dog food.

I tried to find its owner.

The dog was not wearing tags.

I asked the neighbors.

They did not know the dog.

I could not find its owner.

I took the dog to the vet.

The vet gave the dog an exam.

The dog had worms.

The dog had fleas.

The dog was malnourished.

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The vet gave the dog medicine.  
The vet gave the dog a flea bath.  
I bought some dog food.  
I took the dog home.

I named the dog Scrappy.  
I fed Scrappy.  
I combed Scrappy's hair.  
I took care of Scrappy.  
Scrappy's health improved.

Soon Scrappy was happy.  
Scrappy and I were good friends.  
We played every afternoon.  
Scrappy slept in my bed.  
Scrappy was a good dog.

I took Scrappy to the park.  
Scrappy and I played fetch.  
I heard a boy's voice call "Lindsay!"  
A boy ran to the dog.  
The boy hugged the dog.  
Scrappy looked happy to see the boy.

Scrappy was this boy's dog.  
Scrappy had gotten lost at a picnic.  
The picnic was two months ago.  
The family had searched for Scrappy.  
They had never found him.

I told the family my story.  
I had found Scrappy.  
I had taken Scrappy to the vet.  
I had nourished Scrappy back to health.  
I had adopted Scrappy.

The family was very happy to see their dog.  
The boy was especially happy to see his dog.  
I could not break the boy's heart.  
I had to give Scrappy back.  
Scrappy became Lindsay again.