

## Comma Exercises

The following exercise is designed to test your knowledge about the dreaded comma. Read each sentence carefully and put commas where they are needed. In the space next to each sentence, indicate by number the “rule” for using commas where you placed them. If no comma was used, explain why a comma was not needed.

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### COMMA RULES

1. independent clause joined by a coordinating conjunction
2. appositive
3. coordinate adjective (and, but, or, etc.)
4. subordinate clause
5. direct quotation
6. interjection
7. introductory element
8. nonrestrictive clause
9. verb or verbal phrase
10. long prepositional phrase
11. NO COMMA (explain

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| 1. Paul is majoring in biochemistry and finding it hard going.                       | 1. _____ |
| 2. Having seen the movie already I stayed home.                                      | 2. _____ |
| 3. Agatha Christie the famous mystery writer died in 1976.                           | 3. _____ |
| 4. Jack groaned “Oh no now we’ll never know how the movie ends!”                     | 4. _____ |
| 5. Dinner having burned we all went out for pizza.                                   | 5. _____ |
| 6. He hoped to write short stories and to have a volume of his poems published soon. | 6. _____ |
| 7. If you wish to go to Italy next spring I’ll plan to go with you.                  | 7. _____ |

8. Many people had tried to reach the top of the mountain but only a few had succeeded. 8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Equipped with only an inexpensive camera he succeeded in taking a prize-winning picture. 9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. During times of emotional distress and heightened tensions Chris remains calm. 10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. To gather pine cones for Christmas decorations he traveled nearly ten miles up the mountain. 11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Recognizing that his pleas for forgiveness were hopeless Judas fell into despair and committed suicide. 12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. She had ambition and the talent necessary for success in theatre. 13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Mr. Novak found himself surrounded by noisy exuberant students. 14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. "We are" she said "prepared to serve meals to a group of a considerable size." 15. \_\_\_\_\_
16. He had no intention of withdrawing from college nor was he willing to carry a lighter load. 16. \_\_\_\_\_
17. To graduate in June Janet will have to attend summer school. 17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. Although storm clouds were gathering we made the trip across the lake in the kayak. 18. \_\_\_\_\_
19. "You must be more quiet or the landlord will make us move" she said. 19. \_\_\_\_\_
20. We asked Ben Barton the Boy Scout director to suggest a campsite. 20. \_\_\_\_\_
21. I could not decide whether to go to college or to go to Maine with my aunt for the summer. 21. \_\_\_\_\_
22. Built on a high cliff the house afforded a panoramic view of the valley. 22. \_\_\_\_\_
23. The ringing of the telephone having awakened him he was unable to go back to sleep. 23. \_\_\_\_\_
24. I was unable to deposit my check the bank having closed at noon. 24. \_\_\_\_\_
25. Her courses included Russian, organic chemistry and statistics. 25. \_\_\_\_\_