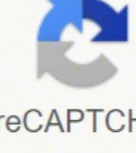


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Correcting Run-on Sentences: Commas and Conjunctions

A run-on sentence is one where two independent clauses have been put together without the correct punctuation.

Example: The birds flew east the deer ran south.

The two independent clauses are *The birds flew east* and *the deer ran south*. However, there is no "glue" to hold the two clauses together, therefore, this is a run-on sentence.

One way to correct a run-on sentence is to add a comma and coordinating conjunction as the "glue" to hold the two clauses together. The coordinating conjunctions are *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so*.

Corrected sentence: The birds flew east, and the deer ran south.

Rewrite each run-on sentence below, adding coordinating conjunctions and commas in the correct places.

1. Bob played the guitar Suzy played the piano.
2. Many people came to the show no one seemed to like it.
3. The pioneers crossed the plains in covered wagons the travel time was long.
4. The car came to a quick stop in the driveway in the house the people screamed.
5. James can do the dishes he can take out the trash.

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Colon or Semicolon?

Decide whether a colon or a semicolon is needed and insert either in the correct area of the sentence.

1. I have a dental appointment on Wednesday at 2:00 PM.
2. Bob ate the pizza; Jane ate the burgers.
3. I went to the cottage; my sister went to the zoo.
4. The restaurant served the type of food we all like: pasta.
5. The speech was stellar: creative, informative and well presented.
6. I went to the library; it was closed.
7. Tomorrow will start out sunny; however, rain is expected by the afternoon.
8. I am sick; I need some Tylenol.
9. To Whom It May Concern:
10. Jay made a dental appointment; he lost a tooth when the puck hit him.
11. I need the following groceries: milk, bread, juice, and butter.
12. I have one goal: to win the race.

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Commas

Commas are used to separate things in a list.

Example: I like to eat apples, oranges, and grapes.

Directions: Read each sentence. Add commas to separate the things in the list.

1. Last week it rained snowed and hailed in our town.
2. My favorite animals are lions whales and giraffes.
3. I helped my sister put on her socks shoes and dress.
4. Look to the sky to see stars satellites and the moon.
5. At Sue's party there were balloons cake and presents.
6. During Art class we used crayons glue and scissors.
7. Sandy Pat Jo and Peg are going to the show with me.
8. I helped my mom hang the wreath garland and tinsel.
9. For school we bought a notebook ruler and pencils.
10. Dad's favorite sports are football golf and tennis.

Commas are used in stories, letters, songs, poems, signs, scripts, lists, and many other things.

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Punctuation



Practice, Posters and
Proofreading

By Jana Luvato

The Baseball Game

In the following paragraph, insert commas for using quotations used together. Add the story subject in four places and two other quotation marks.

Rule: Use **quotation marks** to show the exact words a person is saying. **Rule:** Use a **comma** to separate the speaker's words from the rest of the sentence.

Example: Lizzie said, "I am hungry."

The Baseball Game

I love going to baseball games and Jimmy. I think they are a lot of fun for me and Mrs. Hill. The whole class got to go to a Twins game in the new stadium. The students were so excited. Tom said this is the best field trip ever.

Rewrite the paragraph correctly.

Punctuation Practice

Directions: Put the correct punctuation mark in the blank for each sentence.

1. The teacher was proud of our class.
2. Emily had eaten all of the brownies.
3. Who is coming to the party?
4. What do bears eat?
5. Wow, that's awful!
6. Matthew needs to clean up his mess.
7. Can I read the chapter book?
8. Paul's favorite subject is math.
9. They were good at geography.
10. Where is Australia?

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