Name:_____ Date:_____ Period:_____

Commas: Practice Makes Perfect

Exercise 1: Commas

Place commas wherever they are needed in the following sentences.

1. The girl with the bright friendly smile wore a bright green scarf to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

2. As he read the Chekhov story he became aware of the Russian's genius.

3. Dauphin Island located off the coast of Alabama is a favorite spot for fishing.

4. She was as a matter of fact mainly interested in showing off her vocabulary.

5. I often go to the seashore and collect rocks there.

6. Before reaching the summit the climbers were forced by a storm to turn back.

7. Did you know that James Agee the novelist and poet was also a film critic?

8. Lady Jane Grey was the queen of England from July 10 1553 to July 19 1553.

9. Joseph registered for English 101 History 204 and Biology 106.

10. After discussing "Rain" we agreed that Somerset Maugham could really tell a good story.

11. Squaw Valley California the scene of the winter Olympics in 1960 is a ski resort.

12. Tomorrow I believe is the last day to register to vote in the November general election.

13. To perform well on Saturday afternoon the athlete must train every day of the week.

14. Understanding history increases your understanding of today's world.

15 Meg Fischer my cousin hopes to graduate from law school in two years.

16. He reads everything: road maps want ads and cereal boxes.

17. Having cut the roses she decided to bring them to her friend in the hospital.

18. "When" Jaime asked "will you return my book?"

Exercise 2: Commas after Introductions

A. *If the following sentences are correctly punctuated with introductory commas, mark a C on the line to the left of the sentence. If there is an error, put an X on the line and circle the error.*

_____ 1. As the boat turned about a dozen dolphins began to follow it.

_____ 2. Since we moved into town, our fuel bill has tripled.

_____ 3. Having chosen nursing as a career Susan enrolled in many science courses.

_____ 4. Usually, I have time to eat breakfast.

_____ 5. From outside the twelve-mile fishing limits off the coast of Maine, a strange phenomenon has been reported.

_____ 6. When he was in high school he was known only as an athlete.

_____ 7. Before you decide what courses to take, you should consider the amount of work you are willing to do.

_____ 8. Nevertheless I do not want to meet him.

B. *Add introductory commas where they are needed in the following sentences.*

1. To give Jane a good look at the university Mr. Benson drove up for the Day on Campus.
2. Since the dog had started to run a way we had to scramble to catch him.
3. Of course the movie that I had rushed to see didn't start on time.
4. Her secondhand car was in excellent condition when she bought it.
5. As I mentioned the rules can be broken occasionally.
6. Having decided to eat only natural foods he had to give up all of his favorite junk food snacks.
7. To estimate the costs he consulted a repairman by phone.
8. To succeed in politics is not necessarily desirable.
9. Making up his mind quickly Jared ordered lasagna while we were still reading the menu.
10. However he tried to use the bottle opener it wouldn't work.

C. *Write your own sentences with introductory elements, and punctuate them correctly.*

1. After _____

_____

2. To save _____

_____

3. If _____

_____

4. Often _____

_____

5. Hearing _____

_____

Exercise 3: Commas with Nonessential Elements

The following sentences have essential and nonessential words, phrases, and clauses in them. Put in the necessary punctuation. Some sentences are correct as is. Write a C if you think the sentence is correct.

1. The girl who teaches swimming at the neighborhood pool has a great deal of patience.

2. The girl who enjoyed teaching swimming decided to major in physical education at college.

3. The high school course that was most valuable to me was typing.

4. Maria wearing an original dress of her own design was the center of attention.

5. Dogsled mushing which has been his favorite sport for years requires a lot of effort.

6. Dauphin Island located off the coast of Alabama is a favorite spot for fishermen.

7. He saw his favorite movie *Star Wars* eight times.

8. Two of her friends Kate and Beth are planning to share an apartment with her next summer.

9. *Citizen Kane* considered by many critics to be the greatest American film ever made won only one Academy Award.

10. The officer who made the arrest had been investigated previously for excessive use of force.

Exercise 4: Paragraph Practice

Write a paragraph about you and your friends. Please demonstrate your understanding of the four major comma rules that were emphasized in class by creating 2 sentences that includes a list or series, 2 compound sentences, 2 sentences containing introductory elements, and 2 sentences that contains extra information.

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