

Comma Activity 1

Directions: Insert all necessary commas in the following paragraph:

Once upon a time there was a small boy who loved to tell tall tales. Because of this behavior nobody ever believed a word he said. Therefore it was no surprise that nobody listened one day when he cried "My pop's barn is on fire!" Everyone in the village laughed at the excited youngster as he begged and pleaded for someone to follow him. After a few minutes one woman became concerned. She asked her companions "Should we see if the barn is really burning?" At that moment someone spotted smoke. Immediately the villagers jumped on their horses and headed to the liar's farm. Sure enough what he said was true. With great haste the villagers formed a line to help extinguish the flames. Luckily the boy's father has already saved the animals. This frightening incident convinced the child that lying was a terrible habit. Shortly thereafter he found new ways to amuse himself: singing drawing and fishing. Let this true story serve as a warning to all inclined to tell tall tales: nobody believes a fibber. Each person therefore should find amusement in harmless activities.

Comma Activity 2

Directions: Insert all necessary commas into the following sentences:

1. Heeding all too well the admonition of Genesis 1:26 man has clearly established dominion over the fish of the sea the birds of the air the cattle and all the earth.
2. In fact man has gone far toward destroying all members of the animal kingdom including of course himself.
3. In the last 150 years man has increased his extermination of mammals alone by fifty-five-fold and if the killing continues at the present rate man may well destroy all 4062 species of mammals within thirty years.
4. Even today there are 835 endangered species with more being added each year.
5. In India where 40000 tigers roamed in 1930 there are now only 2500 left and the lion population currently estimated at 175 has been depleted even more severely.
6. Australia a land of energetic sports-minded individuals has treated its animal population no better than India has.
7. Consequently animals like the kangaroo for which Australia is famous are fast disappearing as are koala bears Tasmanian wolves and emus.
8. Because Australians were not concerned about their wildlife in 1930 the government machine-gunned 20000 emus at one time.
9. In the United States too several species of wildlife have disappeared and many others are close to extinction.
10. The Eastern elk and the passenger pigeon once so plentiful in this country are now forever gone.
11. Other animals such as the alligator the Southern Bald eagle and the ivory-billed woodpecker may be fated to join the growing list of species we will see no more.
12. Although alligators are protected by law men continue to kill them for their skins only the belly portion of which are used.
13. As long as Americans want their expensive alligator belts handbags and shoes the poachers will continue to supply the skins.
14. The profit motive of course has led to the wholesale slaughter of animals like the alligator and the tiger but many other animals have been killed for whim or pleasure.

Comma Activity 3

Directions: Insert any missing commas in the following sentences. Try to identify the name of the comma error.

Example: My opinion as long as you asked is that the expedition is likely to succeed.
My opinion, as long as you asked, is that the expedition is likely to succeed.
(nonessential info)

1. That singer whoever he is really knows how to sing the blues.
2. The woman sitting at the back table is a well-known restaurant reviewer.
3. When conditions are right that horse can run just like its father.
4. His four favorite artists are Monet Renoir Degas and Manet.
5. Let Warren and Andrea our most skillful speakers present our proposal.
6. Long regarded as a leading newspaper the *Washington Post* boasts an outstanding staff of reporters.
7. Slowly slyly and cautiously Eric slid the wallet across the table.
8. What we need is creative leadership leadership that will encourage experimentation.
9. During high school he read *Romeo and Juliet* *Julius Caesar* and *Hamlet*.
10. Song of Solomon I believe is the professor's favorite.

11. I believe that should the eggs break we will have a mess.
12. Sometimes I think that people are extremely foolish.
13. I believe that a computer breakdown is a common excuse for late papers.
14. The elephant that stands on the drum is Maggie.
15. The elephant which is a hard worker and a talented performer is found in most zoos and circuses.

Comma Activity 4

Directions: Insert all commas as needed in the following paragraph.

Sunday is the best day of the week and I always enjoy it. I always sleep late so I can recover from the hard week I've had. Since the library is not open until 2:00 I never feel guilty about getting the extra sleep. My parents however don't agree with my "Sunday Philosophy." According to them I should be getting up at 8:00 reading my assignments or writing essays for my classes. But they just don't understand. When I finally get out of bed it is lunchtime but I never cook on Sundays. I hop in my car and drive to Wendy's McDonald's or Taco Bell. Then I watch TV all day long. So far my philosophy has worked. With any luck I'll be able to say the same thing next quarter.

Comma Activity 5

Directions: Use commas to set off nonrestrictive elements, parenthetical expressions, transitional connectives, and contrasted sentence elements in the sentences. Identify the comma error in the sentence.

- 1) The parliament building which still bears scars of bullets and bombs is on the other side of the river.
- 2) The atmosphere is heightened moreover when these buildings are bathed in the yellow lights of night.
- 3) Our dreams not our failures should direct our future lives.
- 4) Todd and Ellen enjoyed Budapest the capital of Hungary situated on the Danube River.
- 5) William Penn who was the leader of the Quakers was granted land by Charles II.
- 6) The man who led the Quakers was granted land by Charles II.
- 7) My nephew Lynn is the one who is in India.
- 8) Students without funds for example may now borrow money easily.
- 9) I enjoy reading stories about athletes who competed during the late 1950's.
- 10) Both Francis Bacon the philosopher and Francis Bacon the painter have contributed to mankind.

11) Carl Monroe the chairman of the board of directors was once a well-known television personality.

12) My fifteenth birthday which proved to be the happiest day of my life was celebrated May 22, 1960.

13) Senator Benning was I felt far too intelligent to make a statement as reckless as that.

14) Exciting as today's game was however it was nothing to compare with the one that took place last week.

15) My grandfather gave much of his time to the political refugees who escaped from Hungary.

16) The star was I thought too nervous to perform.

17) Women who care about their rights are encouraged to join Women Students for Equal Representation.

18) Miss Johnston is I am sure excellently qualified.