

# 28.2 Commas (with Compound Sentences, with Series and Adjectives) • Practice 1

**Commas with Compound Sentences** Use a *comma* before the conjunction to separate two independent clauses in a compound sentence.

<b>COMPOUND SENTENCES</b>
We worked most of the day, but we didn't finish painting the room. Not only were we late for the party, but most of the food was gone also.

**Commas with Series and Adjectives** Use commas to separate three or more words, phrases, or clauses in a series. Use commas to separate adjectives of equal rank but not adjectives that must stay in a specific order.

With Commas	Without Commas
Mom bought chocolate, milk, and cookies for the party.	Mom bought milk and cookies for the party.
Eager, devoted fans waited outside the star's dressing room.	Many eager fans waited outside the star's dressing room.

**Exercise 1 Using Commas Correctly.** Add commas where they are needed. One sentence needs no commas.

**EXAMPLE:** My chores include cleaning my room dusting the living room and taking out the trash.  
My chores include cleaning my room, dusting the living room, and taking out the trash.

1. The actor delivered the soliloquy in a clear strong voice.
2. My sister goes to college in Ohio and my brother goes to college in Maine.
3. Parsley sprigs lemon slices and tomato wedges formed an attractive border on the platter.
4. The hot tired campers headed straight for the lake.
5. Janice may bake a cake or we can order one at Farella's.
6. Have you seen the Jacksons' three new puppies?
7. Our trip was far from perfect but at least we got home safely.
8. Elmer saw a large lumpy figure moving through the shadows.
9. Jeremy had planned a special meal but it was ruined.
10. Will you fly take the train or drive to California?

**Exercise 2 Understanding Rules for Commas.** Describe the comma rule for each sentence in Exercise 1 above by writing *compound sentence*, *series*, *equal adjectives*, or *adjectives in order*.

**EXAMPLE:** series

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|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

## 28.2 Commas (After Introductory Material, with Parenthetical and Nonessential Expressions) • Practice 1

**Commas After Introductory Material** Use a *comma* after an introductory word, phrase, or clause.

INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL
<i>Introductory Word:</i> Yes, that is the book I ordered.
<i>Introductory Phrase:</i> Without a word to anyone, Susan left the house.
<i>Introductory Clause:</i> As the ship sailed away, we waved at Jim.

**Commas with Parenthetical and Nonessential Expressions** Use commas to set off parenthetical and nonessential expressions.

PARENTHETICAL EXPRESSIONS
<i>Names of People Being Addressed:</i> Did you know, Tom, that I am a twin?
<i>Certain Adverbs:</i> We hoped, however, that the weather would improve.
<i>Common Expressions:</i> The outcome, in my opinion, looks bleak.
<i>Contrasting Expressions:</i> Those scrolls are from China, not Korea.

Essential Expressions	Nonessential Expressions
My friend the football player is trying for a scholarship.	Jack, a football player, is trying for a scholarship.
The woman now approaching the microphone will introduce the speaker.	Alice, now approaching the microphone, will introduce the speaker.

**Exercise 1** **Recognizing Introductory Material.** Write the introductory word, phrase, or clause in each sentence, and add the needed comma.

**EXAMPLE:** Actually I would rather stay home. Actually,

1. Yes the crocuses have begun to bloom. \_\_\_\_\_
2. To win the game we need a miracle. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Shrugging her shoulders Melody walked away. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Before we knew it the movie ended. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Exhausted we looked for a shady spot to rest. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Although he works hard math is difficult for Bob. \_\_\_\_\_
7. As soon as we got your call we changed our plans. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Alice have you seen my keys anywhere? \_\_\_\_\_
9. To get to work Mom takes a bus and a train. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Frankly I have my doubts about the proposal. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2** **Using Commas with Parenthetical and Nonessential Expressions.** Add commas where they are needed. One sentence needs no commas.

**EXAMPLE:** My mother a doctor hopes that I will follow in her footsteps.  
My mother, a doctor, hopes that I will follow in her footsteps.

1. It was Bill not Bob whom I met at the concert.
2. The novel *All the King's Men* is set in Louisiana.
3. We agreed of course that the party should be a surprise.
4. Mr. Palmeri our next-door neighbor grows beautiful roses.
5. T.S. Eliot who was born in St. Louis adopted England as his home.

## 29.3 The Semicolon • Practice 1

**Semicolons and Independent Clauses** Use a semicolon to join independent clauses not already joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction. A semicolon can also be used to join two independent clauses joined by a conjunctive adverb or a transitional expression.

<b>Two Independent Clauses</b>	Alan reached the mouth of the cave first; he peered inside and decided to wait for his friends.
<b>Independent Clauses With a Conjunctive Adverb</b>	Karen wants a new car; however, she will wait until she has saved \$2,000 for a down payment.
<b>Independent Clauses With a Transitional Expression</b>	My sister is an outstanding student; as a result, she won a four-year college scholarship.

**Semicolons Used to Avoid Confusion** Use a semicolon to avoid confusion when independent clauses or items in a series already contain commas.

<b>EXAMPLE:</b>
My aunt traveled to Lisbon, Madrid, and Seville; and, next year, she hopes to visit England and France.

**Exercise 1** **Using Semicolons Correctly.** In each sentence a comma is used instead of a semicolon. Circle the comma to show that a semicolon is needed.

**EXAMPLE:** Ben arrived later (,) consequently, he missed the meeting.

1. My sister likes to save money, in fact, she already has saved a thousand dollars.
2. We bought peaches, plums, and nectarines, but the peaches were not ripe.
3. The dog, whose tail wagged continuously, barked, but its owner, a nice man, reassured us.
4. Billy, wait for little Joey, he can't walk that fast.
5. Selling ice cream, Beth earned almost \$100, that was the most for any one day.
6. We sang, danced, and went for a moonlit swim, and a good time was had by all.
7. It's time to mow the lawn, also, the garden needs to be weeded.
8. You can't start writing now, first, you must do some research.
9. Paris, Florence, and Venice are all beautiful cities, but my favorite is Florence.
10. I had been there before, as a result, I didn't pay attention to the directions.

**Exercise 2** **Writing Compound Sentences With Semicolons.** Complete the sentences below.

**EXAMPLE:** I love exotic food ; however, that meal was too much for me.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
however, \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
for instance, \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
otherwise, \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
on the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_

# 28.3 Semicolons and Colons (Uses of the Semicolon)

## • Practice 1

**Uses of the Semicolon** Use a semicolon to join independent clauses not already joined by a coordinating conjunction or those separated by a conjunctive adverb or transitional expression. Use semicolons to avoid confusion when independent clauses already contain commas or between items in a series that contains commas.

<b>With Independent Clauses</b>	The chief sounded the alarm; the firefighters raced to their stations.
<b>With a Conjunctive Adverb</b>	Helene has a 4.0 average; consequently, she has a good chance for a scholarship.
<b>With a Transitional Expression</b>	In the first place, Stan loves all sports; in addition, he has excellent coordination.
<b>With Items That Already Have Commas</b>	The judges will include Ms. Haley, the drama coach; Mr. Dakin, the choral director; and Mr. Odem, the local drama critic.

**Exercise 1** **Using Semicolons Correctly.** In each sentence, a comma is used where a semicolon is needed. Circle the comma that should be replaced with a semicolon.

**EXAMPLE:** Jenny has neglected her studies lately(,) consequently, her grades are falling.

1. Since childhood, Amy has loved animals, therefore, her career as a veterinarian is hardly surprising.
2. Cucumbers, carrots, tomatoes, and onions are common in salads, but have you ever tried adding broccoli, eggplant, or corn?
3. When Anna is home from college, all the bedrooms are full, but we can always put up a guest in the playroom, a room that is seldom used.
4. Just put the packages on the porch, we'll have to wait here until someone gets home with the key.
5. Penny had just come off a twelve-hour shift, she was exhausted.
6. We are to supply paper goods, beverages, and snacks, but Tom will provide the main dish, the vegetables, and the salad.
7. The house needs to be painted, in addition, it needs a new roof.
8. This is an ideal time to start out, the roads are not yet crowded.
9. Jason, whom I have known all my life, was a very serious youngster, but he has, surprisingly enough, become the life of every party.
10. Grandma has lived in that old house all her life, no wonder she doesn't want to move.

**Exercise 2** **Understanding Uses of the Semicolon.** Give the reason why each of the semicolons in Exercise 1 is needed by writing the appropriate label from the chart.

**EXAMPLE:** conjunctive adverb

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| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |