

Commas II

Joining Sentence Patterns

Study Supplement

Use a comma to separate independent clauses (IC) joined by a coordinating conjunction (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*). The comma is placed before the conjunction.

Examples:

(IC) [John requested my help] , **and** (IC)[I gave it freely].

(IC) [Bob and Betty requested my help] , **so** (IC)[I gave it freely].

(IC) [I returned the books to Helen **and** Mary].

Note: When a coordinating conjunction connects two closely related words (such as “ham and eggs”) or simple phrases, (such as “head over heels and ready for anything” ...), do not place a comma before the conjunction.

Pre-Test

A score of 90% or better on this pre-test indicates mastery of the skills for which this test has been designed.

Directions: In the following sentences, only one sentence of each pair is correctly punctuated. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. A. Mark wasn't interested in the discussion so he left the meeting early.
B. Mark wasn't interested in the discussion, so he left the meeting early.
2. A. My little brother tried to open his birthday package, but he could not tear the cellophane wrapping.
B. My little brother tried to open his birthday package but, he could not tear the cellophane wrapping.
3. A. Martha's apartment is tastefully decorated and, it is cozy and comfortable.
B. Martha's apartment is tastefully decorated, and it is cozy and comfortable.
4. A. I can tell that it is going to rain today, for there's a warm wind blowing from the south.
B. I can tell that it is going to rain today for there's a warm wind blowing from the south.
5. A. Noah did not participate in the marathon, nor did he attend the festivities after the race.

- B. Noah did not participate in the marathon nor did he attend the festivities after the race.
6. A. Spring in Humboldt County is usually a beautiful season but, this year we've experienced extremely cold weather.
- B. Spring in Humboldt County is usually a beautiful season, but this year we've experienced extremely cold weather.
7. A. My car sounds like a cement mixer, for the rust has eaten a hole in the muffler.
- B. My car sounds like a cement mixer for the rust has eaten a hole in the muffler.
8. A. Harry refused my invitation to the party so I invited Bert.
- B. Harry refused my invitation to the party, so I invited Bert.
9. A. I am interested in UFOs, and science fiction stories but I spend most of my time studying math.
- B. I am interested in UFOs and science fiction stories, but I spend most of my time studying math.
10. A. The clocks in the bedrooms and the other rooms were twenty minutes slow, for the electricity had gone off during the night.
- B. The clock in the bedrooms, and the other rooms, were twenty minutes slow for the electricity had gone off during the night.

Answers on Last Page

Check Test

Directions: In the following sentences, only one sentence of each pair is correctly punctuated. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. A. I fully intended to complete my assignment, but I fell asleep while watching TV.
B. I fully intended to complete my assignment but I fell asleep while watching TV.
2. A. My boss explained all of the regulations and then he left me in charge of the office.
B. My boss explained all of the regulations, and then he left me in charge of the office.
3. A. Bertha is not interested in house work nor is she eager to have a career.
B. Bertha is not interested in house work, nor is she eager to have a career.
4. A. Joe will meet your relatives at the bus station, or you can take the car and meet them yourself.
B. Joe will meet your relatives at the bus station or you can take the car and meet them yourself.

5. A. I am unable to understand your argument, for your explanations are not clear.
- B. I am unable to understand your argument for your explanations are not clear.
6. A. McBird was a skillful athlete, so I have tried to imitate him.
- B. McBird was a skillful athlete so I have tried to imitate him.
7. A. Driving to Los Angeles was easy for there was little traffic on the road.
- B. Driving to Los Angeles was easy, for there was little traffic on the road.
8. A. Mark would have struck his brother but I convinced both boys that they should not fight.
- B. Mark would have struck his brother, but I convinced both boys that they should not fight.
9. A. Many people from Los Angeles and San Francisco hope to move to Humboldt County for they appreciate the clean air and open spaces here.
- B. Many people from Los Angeles and San Francisco hope to move to Humboldt County, for they appreciate the clean air and open spaces here.
10. A. I finally mastered the fundamentals of math, so I now plan to study algebra.
- B. I finally mastered the fundamentals of math so I now plan to study algebra.

Answers on last page

Post-Test

A score of 90% or better on this Post-Test indicates mastery of the skills for which the test has been designed.

Directions: In the following sentences, only one sentence of each pair is correctly punctuated. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- A. Dogs, and cats, are often enemies but occasionally they are the best of friends.

B. Dogs and cats are often enemies, but occasionally they are the best of friends.
- A. I cannot agree with your premise, or your evidence, for you have purposely distorted the facts.

B. I cannot agree with your premise or your evidence, for you have purposely distorted the facts.
- A. Father said that I could have a job working for him, or I could try to find a job working for someone else.

B. Father said that I could have a job working, for him, or I could try to find a job working for someone else.

4. A. Gerald, and his friends, went to San Francisco so you won't have a chance to meet them this week.
5. A. Gerald and his friends went to San Francisco, so you won't have a chance to meet them this week.

Answers on Last Page

ANSWER SHEET

Answers to Pre-Test

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

Answers to Check-Test

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

Answers to Post-Test

1. B

2. B

3. A

4. B

5. A