



Crafton Hills College Tutoring Center Writing Directed Learning Activities

Comma Use

Student Name: _____

Course: _____

Date: _____

Professor: _____

Overview

Complete the activity and fill out the form except for the Tutor Check section. You must come in to the Tutoring Center with this form PRINTED and a copy of your edited MLA or APA paper (this can be in print form or digital) to see an English Tutor in order to complete the assignment.

Learning Outcomes

Students will learn how correct common comma mistakes and learn new techniques for using commas.

Activity (about 30 minutes)

Watch the following videos on comma rules and complete the comma handout.

Video, Website, Prezi, or PowerPoint link

Meet the Comma:: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wk0k2FLjM1c> 4 minutes

Punctuating a List: <https://youtu.be/DBMQOK64VQY> 2 minutes

Run-ons and Comma Splices: <https://youtu.be/Fh45mhVsZrU> 4 minutes

Commas and Introductory Elements: <https://youtu.be/NvGbug8iORE> 4 minutes

Commas in Dialogue: https://youtu.be/uYoX_Qyknao 4 minutes

Commas and Adjectives: <https://youtu.be/OfxiZdsqGeA> 4 minutes

Self-Check (do these steps before bringing into the Tutoring Center)

Compare your handout (pages 3 and 4) with the examples in the videos.

1. Which comma rules from the videos apply to the handout?
2. Are there any cases where you felt there was more than one right answer?
3. Are there any types of comma uses that were unclear to you that you might want to ask a tutor about?
4. Did your perspective on comma use change at all throughout this activity?

Tutor Check (Bring in a printed copy of this handout and your edited paper)

- Compare the comma handout (answer key version) with the student’s corrections.
- Answer any questions the student may have about comma rules.
- Explain how commas should be used in each example.
- Feel free to suggest that the student attend an appropriate workshop or take a handout.

Tutor Signature: _____

Stamp the box below with the Tutoring Center Stamp



DLA created by: Jordan Montejano, English Instructor
Tutoring Center
Crafton Hills College

The sentences below are either missing punctuation or are punctuated incorrectly. Please go through each sentence and correct the errors using comma rules that you learned from the videos on page 1.

Commas and Lists

1. I need to pick up a number two pencil a scantron and a pack of note cards before my test tomorrow.
2. I need bread from the bakery meat from the butcher and coffee from the café.
3. If I had to pick my top mentors, they would be Harry, the police officer Tom, the English Professor and Samantha, the pilot.

Commas and Introductory Elements (Dependent and Independent Clauses)

1. Before my test begins I need to study.
2. When the bell rings it's time to get to class.
3. Until the final moment I will be answering questions on my exam.
4. Although I really don't feel like it I'm going to start my homework.
5. While I'm out I might as well pick up a gallon of ice cream.

Run-ons and Comma Splices (FANBOYS and Semicolons)

1. I ran out of the house in a rush, I was late to class.
2. The biology student panicked as his small mistake gave way to the birth of zombie frogs they ran and bit everyone but they couldn't break the skin.
3. The English paper was due on Canvas yesterday however the Canvas page wasn't live.
4. The test seemed easier than Max thought, he didn't realize there were questions on the back.
5. Christine didn't get enough sleep last night, did she remember to bring her homework.

Commas in Dialogue

1. Cheyenne whispered to her lab partner “There are doughnuts in the Crafton Center.”
2. leading experts in the field claim that, “studying for an exam well ahead of time will improve your chances of passing” despite the claims of leading procrastinator, Michael Kyle, who believes “We all do things in our own time.”
3. “The quadratic formula” Jamie yelled out in the middle of English class.

Commas and Nonessential Information

1. Joey the boy who lives next door keeps ringing the doorbell.
2. Regardless you need to finish your homework.
3. Alice who just finished her last final took a long nap.

Commas and Coordinate Adjectives (DOSASCOMP)

1. The gilded rubber ball bounced up and down the hallway.
2. The studious, caffeinated warrior unsheathed his pencil as the history test began.
3. The old, cranky neighbor complained about the postal service.
4. Randy drew the red, shining, shimmering pen from his backpack.
5. The cantankerous, crabby, little, baby bird chirped at the repairman on the telephone pole.

A Side Note on Comma Use

The list of comma uses above is exhaustive, and some types of comma use may not fit your purposes. A good practice is to take the examples from this exercise and see which ones would best fit your needs as a writer. You don't want to spend so much time micromanaging each sentence for grammatical correctness that you take away from the content. Commas, when used correctly, make the meaning of the sentence clearer to the reader. If your sentence can be read multiple ways, so it could have multiple meanings, then you may consider revising it using comma rules.