

Unnecessary Comma

by Uncle ASAP - Thursday, August 31, 2017

<http://waponpoint.com/unnecessary-comma/>

Hello candidates, last class we introduced punctuation marks and talked about [the comma](#), today we will be talking about **unnecessary comma** then after that, we proceed to other punctuation marks: i mean the colon, [the apostrophe](#), quotation marks, dash, parentheses, brackets, the ellipsis mark, the slash and the end punctuation. So let get started;

Unnecessary Comma

Many common misuses of the comma results from an incomplete [understanding](#) of the major [Comma rules](#).

In particular, writers frequently form misconception about [rule one](#) and

[rule five](#), either extending the rules inappropriately or misinterpreting them. In order to prevent this, some rules are gathered together, of course you know that, this is where this is going: The rules of unnecessary comma or rules that guide unnecessary comma;

Rule One

Do not use a comma between compound elements that are not independent clauses.

Though a comma should be used before a coordinating conjunction joining independent clauses { from [rule one of the comma](#)}, this rule should not be extended to other compound word groups.

for example;

a) Marie Curie discovered *radium*, and later applied her work on radioactivity to medicine.

b) James still doesn't realize that his illness is *serious*, and that he will have to alter his diet to improve his chances of survival.

In the first sentence, **and** links two [verbs](#) in a compound [predicates](#): *discovered and applied*.

In the second statement, **and** links two subordinate clauses, *each beginning with that*.

Rule Two

Do not use a comma after a phrase that begins an inverted sentence

Though a comma belongs after most introductory phrases { from [rule two of the comma](#)}, it does not belong after phrases that begin an inverted sentence. In an inverted

sentence, the subject follows the verb, and a phrase that ordinarily would follow the verb is moved to the beginning { I will explain this aspect better when we get to *Writing APA Papers* }.

e.g

a) At the bottom of the *hill*, sat a stubborn mule.

Rule Three

Do not use a comma before the first or after the last item in a series.

For example;

a) Ironically, this job that appears so glamorous, carefree, and *easy*, carries a high degree of responsibility.

b) Other causes of asthmatic attacks *are*, stress, change in temperature, and cold air.

Rule Four

Do not use a comma between cumulative adjectives between [an adjectives](#) and [a noun](#), or between an adverb and an adjective.

Commas are required between coordinate {just incase you don't know: coordinate adjectives are adjectives that can be joined with **and** }, but they do not belong between cumulative adjectives {those are the adjectives that can not be joined with **and** read [rule four of the comma](#) for better understanding of cumulative and coordinate adjectives }.

e.g

a) In the corner of the closet we found an *old*, maroon hatbox from Sears.

In a type of the statement above, a comma should never be used between an adjective and the noun that follows it.

hence, the statement above is wrong.

The correct statement is;

In the corner of the closet we found an *old*, maroon hatbox from Sears. Also in,

b) It is a senseless, *dangerous*, mission.

In the statement above, also, no comma should be used between an adverb and an adjective that follows it.

c) The Hurst Home is unsuitable as a mental facility for *severely*, disturbed youths.

Nor should a comma be used in the sentence above.

Rule Five

Do not use comma to set off restrictive or mildly parenthetical elements.

[Restrictive elements](#) are modifiers or appositives that restrict the meaning of the nouns they follow. Because they are essential to the meaning of the sentence, they are not set off with commas. {read [Rule five of the comma](#) for better understanding }

For example;

a) *Drivers*, who think they own the *road*, make cycling a dangerous sport.

In the sentence above, the modifier who think they own the road restricts the meaning of Drivers and is therefore essential to the meaning of the sentence. Putting commas around the *who* clause falsely suggests that all drivers think they own the road.

b) Margaret Mead's *book*, *Coming of Age in Samoa*, stirred up considerable controversy when it was published in 1928.

Since Mead wrote more than one book, the appositive contains information essential to the meaning of the sentence.

Although commas should be used with distinctly parenthetical expressions {read rule Six of the comma}, do not use them to set off elements that are only mildly parenthetical.

e.g

c) Charisse believes that the Internet *is, essentially*, a bastion of advertising.

Rule Six

When adverb clauses introduce a sentence, they are nearly always followed by a comma{ [rule two of the comma](#)}. When they conclude a sentence, however, they are not set off by commas if their content is essential to the meaning of the earlier part of the sentence. Adverb clauses beginning with **after, as soon as, because, before, if, since, unless, until, and when are usually essential.**

e.g

a) Don't visit Paris at the height of the tourist *season*, unless you have booked hotel reservation.

Without the *unless* clause, the meaning of the sentence might at first seem broader than the writer intended.

When a concluding adverb clause is nonessential, it should be preceded by a comma. Clauses beginning with *although, even though, though, and whereas* are usually nonessential.

b) The lecture seemed to last only a short *time*, although the clock said it had gone on for more than an hour.

Rule Seven

Do not use a comma to separate a verb from its subject or object.

A sentence should flow from subject to verb to object without unnecessary pauses. Commas may appear between these major sentence elements only when a specific rule calls for them.

For example;

a) Zoos large enough to give the animals freedom to *roam*, are becoming more popular.

The comma should not separate the subject, *Zoos*, from the verb, *are becoming*. .

b) Francesca explained to *him*, that she was busy and would see him later.

In this sentence, the comma should not separate the verb, **explained**, from its object, the subordinate clause that **she was busy and would see him later**.

Rule Eight

Avoid other common misuses of the comma.

Do not use a comma in the following situations.

After A Coordinating Conjunction {For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So}for example;

a) Occasionally soap operas are performed live, *but* , more often they are taped.

After Such As Or Like.e.g

b) Many shade-loving plants, *such as*, begonias, impatiens, and coleus, can add color to a shady garden.

Before Thanfor example;

c) Touring Crete was more thrilling for *us* , than visiting the Greek Islands frequented by rich Europeans.

After AlthoughFor example;

d) *Although*, the air was balmy, the water was too cold for swimming.

Before A Parenthesis. for example;

e} At Nextel Sylvia began at the *bottom*, (with only three and a half walls and a swivel chair), but within five years she had been promoted to supervisor.

To Set Off An Indirect (Reported) Quotationf} Samuel Goldwyn once *said*, that a verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's written on.

With A Question Mark Or An Exclamation Pointg} "Why don't you try *it?*," she coaxed. "You can't do any worse than the rest of us."

Those are the rules guiding unnecessary comma. By now, you should be able to use the comma correctly in a sentence. Please I want you to take the comma and the unnecessary comma aspect of English language very seriously because if you know how to form a sentence very well with all the elements, but without appropriate comma, you are not differ from a person who does not know how to write a sentence or even not aware of what a sentence means. Knowing how to apply the comma will even [help you better in writing an essay](#).

If you truly understand today's topic: "Unnecessary Comma" then answer these questions;

Questions On Unnecessary Comma

Delete commas where necessary in the following sentences. If a sentence is correct, write "correct" for it in the comment box.1} In his Silk Road Project, Yo-Yo Ma has incorporated work by musicians *such as*, Kahana Kahlor and Richard Danielpour.

2} After the morning rains cease, the swimmers emerge from their cottages.

3} Richard's first artwork was a big, blue, clay dolphin.

4} Allison liked hot, spicy foods such as chili, jambalaya, and buffalo wings.

5} On the display screen, was a soothing pattern of light and shadow.

6} James's parents encouraged independent thinking, but required respect for others' opinions.

7} Some first-year architecture students, expect to design intricate structures immediately.

8} The streets that four hours later would be bumper to bumper with commuters, were quite and empty except for a few prowling cat.

9} Josephen told her boss, that she had discovered a new plastic as strong as metal.

10} Mesquite, the hardest of the softwoods, grows primarily in the Southwest.

Summit your answer through the comments box and don't forget to use this [Grammer Checker Tool](#) to test your skills. Also don't forget that, if you need help writing an essay, [These People Can Help](#). Now we have come to the end of the comma and unnecessary comma, our next topic on punctuation marks will be on The semicolon. Also don't forget to suscribe to our candidates mailing list below to not miss out anything, thanks.

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