

Commas with Interrupters B

14i. Use commas to set off an expression that interrupts a sentence.

(3) Use commas to set off words of direct address.

EXAMPLES When did you get here, Aiyana? That notebook, Jeff, is mine.

(4) Use commas to set off parenthetical expressions.

A *parenthetical expression* is a remark that adds information or shows a relationship between ideas.

EXAMPLES That vase, I believe, dates from the twelfth century.
On the other hand, it may not be as old as I think.

EXERCISE Add commas where necessary in the following sentences.

Example 1. This tree, in my opinion, is the most beautiful in the yard.

1. Dr. Phillips should I make an appointment with you next week?
2. The race therefore was equally challenging to all the contestants.
3. Are you going to join us for tea Mrs. Collins?
4. The rowers of course were exhausted after the three-hour race.
5. Small dogs for example can be great pets for the elderly.
6. The students generally speaking enjoy a great deal of variety in the lesson plans.
7. Have you read this article yet Janet?
8. Mrs. Wyatt is this painting yours?
9. Those antiques by the way are mostly forgeries.
10. The mayor on the other hand disagreed with the committee's decision.

Rule: Commas are used to surround non-restrictive elements (interrupters) that land in the middle of an Independent Clause.

DIRECTIONS:

- Add commas where necessary in the following sentences based on the rule above.
- If the sentence is correct, circle the number.
- Highlight the Independent Clause of each item (not the interrupter).

Example: I saw Mrs. Boyles, my English teacher, working in her office.

1. She talks now mainly of her hometown Bac-Lieu with its river and green rice fields.
2. That single stroke which paralyzed her forced my grandmother into a convalescent home.
3. That America relies upon the pleasure principal and happy endings in its entertainment does not however assist us when we face the reality of the convalescent home.
4. People who invest their money wisely can retire without much fear.
5. Fish as far as we know breathe only underwater.
6. Calcium of course is very important in a woman's diet.
7. Dave Frickle who coaches track and field at BC is also the cross country coach.
8. Wasco a small town off of the 99 highway is Pedro's place of birth.
9. The possibility that physical or psychological differences of any sort exist strikes the particular fear that this will be equated with superiority or inferiority of certain groups.
10. You can buy tickets for the *Cirque du Soleil* a dramatic mix of circus arts and street entertainment at any Las Vegas ticket master.

EXERCISE Most of the following sentences contain nonessential phrases or clauses. Add commas where they are needed. If a sentence is correct, write *C*.

EXAMPLE _____ 1. The crowd, seeing Tyrone on his feet, broke into applause.

- _____ 1. Geronimo who led the Chiricahua Apaches was a great leader.
- _____ 2. The salad that she made for the potluck dinner was a colorful mix of tomatoes, artichoke hearts, carrots, and black olives.
- _____ 3. Hercules whose picture can be found on many ancient Greek pottery pieces was the son of Zeus.
- _____ 4. In Mexico City, a man hoping for a sale wore hats stacked one on the other.
- _____ 5. Why is it do you think that she always slept with the doll lying by her side?
- _____ 6. The bride Satori who was from Osaka chose a traditional wedding garment.
- _____ 7. That new ad you saw which appeared in this morning's paper is bringing in many new customers.
- _____ 8. Have I introduced you to Mr. Perkins our kind and generous neighbor?
- _____ 9. Ms. Ortega who was our teacher last year will teach at Adams Middle School next year.
- _____ 10. This bronze statue cast in over a dozen pieces will be put together next month.
- _____ 11. Do you think that the audience excited by the show will give the performers a standing ovation?
- _____ 12. A goal even if it is small is best approached in stages.
- _____ 13. That last Easter egg carefully placed by Rudy certainly is well hidden.
- _____ 14. Pocahontas's story which has been told for over three hundred years sometimes strays from the facts.
- _____ 15. We met the woman who will be the violin soloist with the orchestra.
- _____ 16. Will this new information learned only an hour ago interest the voters?
- _____ 17. Lonnie dreaming of flying in a spacecraft stared up at the stars.
- _____ 18. The house's owners who like to do such work themselves are painting.
- _____ 19. All the animals shown on the facing page are expert swimmers and divers.
- _____ 20. These ancient Chinese tombs discovered only a few years ago are still being excavated.