

PUNCTUATION DRILLS

Apostrophes Drill 1

In the following sentences, cross out any apostrophes that don't belong. If a word is spelled or used incorrectly because of an apostrophe error, write the correct word in the margin.

1. My arteries' seemed to get more and more clogged with every trip to the donut shop.
2. The pie was delicious when I first made it, but it's not so great anymore.
3. I absolutely did not expect them to be here on time, but they're they are.
4. If this device needs them, then why are there no battery's included?
5. I know the car seems out of her price range, but I'm pretty sure it's hers'.
6. It was time to go back to class, but the teacher didn't want to interrupt the children's game.
7. Do you have any idea who's letter this is?
8. Thank you so much for the cookies. Their delicious.
9. There's no dog in the world whose as much fun as ours'.
10. The politician ran on the idea that he was the people's candidate.

Apostrophes Drill 2

In the following sentences, add any apostrophes that are missing. If a word is spelled or used incorrectly because of an apostrophe error, write the correct word in the margin.

1. I need to start exercising more if I want to improve my arteries health.
2. St. Louis seems close to Chicago, but its actually five hours away by car.
3. I prefer red grapes, but there never available at the grocery store.
4. Because of all the corrosion, I cannot read the part where it lists this batteries charge.
5. There are two hamburgers here: one is his, and the other is hers.
6. The childrens treehouse was marked with a sign that said, "No Girls Allowed."
7. I cannot tell whose on the phone: I do not recognize the voice.
8. Were going to the concert later, so were trying to relearn some of the lyrics.

9. I think I see your car across the street, and ours is over there.
10. I thought the singer was terrible, and I had no idea why he was chosen as the peoples choice.

Apostrophes Drill 3

Choose the correct word from the parentheses.

1. My parents didn't give us permission, but (we're/were) going anyway.
2. I don't want to start a movie now: (it's/its) almost midnight!
3. My (adversary's/adversaries) favorite team was losing, and I was delighted at his agony.
4. (Who's/Whose) child is this, and (who's/whose) responsible for him?
5. My wallet feels full right now, but most of the bills are (one's/ones).
6. The cat guarded (it's/its) toy, as if to suggest, "(It's/Its) mine."
7. These (dictionary's/dictionaries) seem identical to me, so I'm not sure which one to get.
8. I thought my essay was pretty good, but (her's/hers) was much better.
9. Were you the one looking for the lost sunglasses? (They're/There) over (they're/there).
10. You can say (it's/its) (society's/societies) fault all you want: I still insist (it's/its) (your's/yours).

FIX THE APOSTROPHE DRILLS

Directions: In each of the following sentences, one word is used incorrectly. Find the incorrect word and rewrite it correctly.

Drill 1

1. Butterflies' are known in France as *papillons*.
2. There are so many citation style's that I'm not sure which to use.
3. Most goalies save percentage is above 90 percent.
4. Let's go see whose inside.
5. A stories style is more important to me than its plot.

6. I usually don't like them, but these potatoes preparation has made them really exceptional.
7. Because of all the young parents, there are so many baby's in Hoboken.
8. I'm not sure what it mean's, but there's a big envelope from Harvard at home.
9. My band's version of the song is pretty good, but theirs' is much better.
10. Whose ski's are these?

Drill 2

1. The first song from the album was the bands biggest hit.
2. The Harlem Globetrotters are fun to watch even if there not the best basketball players.
3. I forgot to take my contact's out last night, and now my eyes are burning.
4. F. Scott Fitzgerald was one of the best writers of the twenties'.
5. Cristiano Ronaldo is one of soccers biggest stars.
6. To write, one needs a little bit of money and a room of ones own.
7. In the proper season, there's nothing more delicious than raspberries'.
8. Because I've listened to so many, I can't remember all the sermons contents.
9. The restaurant serves everything, but it's specialty is Greek food.
10. I swear he has sent me a thousand texts' today.

Drill 3

1. Its' a real shame that people don't read more.
2. A religious communities presence does a lot to shape the character of a town.
3. In Latin, the meaning of a word depends a lot on that words declension.
4. Each of the questions' has its own particular slant on the concept.
5. They have a variety of purposes, but the drills main one is to test your knowledge of apostrophes.

6. I can't keep track of all the medicine's my grandmother takes.
7. Sushi would be much more popular if it's rawness weren't so weird to people.
8. If you like that place's pancakes, you should definitely try our's.
9. My English teachers love of grammar is a total mystery to me.
10. Someone must've left the door open and let all these fly's in.

FIX THE STOP/GO PUNCTUATION DRILLS

Directions: For each question, choose the sentence that uses Stop/Go punctuation correctly.

Drill 1

1. A. I know I will be a successful warrior for I will never back down.
B. I know I will be a successful warrior, for I will never back down.
2. F. This is a brand new suit, so you should wear it for a job interview or something.
G. This is a brand new suit so you should wear it for a job interview or something.
3. A. He just goes to the mall and walks around.
B. He just goes to the mall, and walks around.
4. F. I know it's childish, yet I can't fully let go of my rocking horse.
G. I know it's childish yet I can't fully let go of my rocking horse.
5. A. Do you want to hang on to your old baseball cards or just throw them all away?
B. Do you want to hang on to your old baseball cards, or just throw them all away?
6. F. I've never eaten at a Hardee's, nor do I ever intend to.
G. I've never eaten at a Hardee's nor do I ever intend to.
7. A. James said he would come to my party but in the end said he couldn't.
B. James said he would come to my party, but in the end said he couldn't.
8. F. Mario Lemieux stopped playing hockey for a reason few could understand at the time.
G. Mario Lemieux stopped playing hockey, for a reason few could understand at he time.

9. A. He has neither rhyme nor reason for anything he does.
B. He has neither rhyme, nor reason for anything he does.
10. F. Your love letter contains too many grammatical mistakes, so I think we should break up.
G. Your love letter contains too many grammatical mistakes so I think we should break up.

Drill 2

1. A. Please don't look at my iTunes playlist. It's so embarrassing.
B. Please don't look at my iTunes playlist, it's so embarrassing.
2. F. It seems like I only care about politics when: there's some big election going on.
G. It seems like I only care about politics when there's some big election going on.
3. A. The Flyers are going to win the Cup this year, the team's goalie is one of the best in the league!
B. The Flyers are going to win the Cup this year; the team's goalie is one of the best in the league!
4. F. Although it's a huge honor to get an academic book published, the books often sell only 200 or 300 copies.
G. Although it's a huge honor to get an academic book published. The books often sell only 200 or 300 copies.
5. A. I'm not sure why I love furniture shopping so much: maybe it's because I feel like Ikea is a playground!
B. I'm not sure why I love furniture shopping so much maybe it's because I feel like Ikea is a playground.
6. F. Humanities departments all over the country changed in the 1970s; when French literary theory became popular.
G. Humanities departments all over the country changed in the 1970s when French literary theory became popular.
7. A. Every time I go to a squash match, I make sure to take my lucky bandana and an extra racquet.
B. Every time I go to a squash match, I make sure to take: my lucky bandana and an extra racquet.

8. F. My favorite app is probably Duolingo.
G. My favorite app is probably: Duolingo.
9. A. Colin Kaepernick is a talented athlete, NFL blacklisting notwithstanding.
B. Colin Kaepernick is a talented athlete; NFL blacklisting notwithstanding.

Drill 3

1. A. If you see Ravneet, tell him I said hi.
B. If you see Ravneet: tell him I said hi.
2. F. The doctor told me I should eat more kale. Whatever that is.
G. The doctor told me I should eat more kale, whatever that is.
3. A. I've lost a lot of weight on the grapefruit diet although I'm pretty sick of grapefruit.
B. I've lost a lot of weight on the grapefruit diet; although I'm pretty sick of grapefruit.
4. F. It seems like things just keep getting worse: there was more crime in the city this year than last year.
G. It seems like things just keep getting worse, there was more crime in the city this year than last year.
5. A. My favorite Beatle is Paul; Nathaniel's favorite is John.
B. My favorite Beatle is Paul, Nathaniel's favorite is John.
6. F. First, she published a poem in *The Atlantic*. Then, she published a whole book of poems.
G. First, she published a poem in *The Atlantic*, then, she published a whole book of poems.
7. A. When I learned that flourless chocolate cake was gluten-free, I didn't feel so bad about my gluten allergy.
B. When I learned that flourless chocolate cake was gluten-free. I didn't feel so bad about my gluten allergy.
8. F. Many adults suffer from a Vitamin D deficiency because they don't get enough sunlight.
G. Many adults suffer from a Vitamin D deficiency; because they don't get enough sunlight.

9. A. The Senator from Pennsylvania, took the whole legislature by storm.
B. The Senator from Pennsylvania took the whole legislature by storm.
10. F. I don't like protein bars either, but I much prefer them to raw eggs.
G. I don't like protein bars either but I much prefer them to raw eggs.

FIX THE COMMA DRILLS

Directions: For each question, choose the option that uses commas correctly.

Drill 1

1. A. Going for broke, Scottie shot the ball from half court.
B. Going for broke Scottie shot the ball from half court.
2. F. A class, on literary theory, can be really interesting for non-English majors.
G. A class on literary theory can be really interesting for non-English majors.
3. A. I got an A in math, English, and physics.
B. I got an A in math, English and physics.
4. F. The most populous cities in New Jersey are Newark, Jersey City, Paterson and Elizabeth.
G. The most populous cities in New Jersey are Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, and Elizabeth.
5. A. Either the Flyers, the Penguins or the Rangers will win the Atlantic Division this year.
B. Either the Flyers, the Penguins, or the Rangers will win the Atlantic Division this year.
6. F. A filmmaker, particularly one who has gone to film school, should be well-versed in the editing process.
G. A filmmaker particularly one who has gone to film school should be well-versed in the editing process.

7. A. Heeding the weather report Jonathan remembered to take his umbrella.
B. Heeding the weather report, Jonathan remembered to take his umbrella.
8. F. It's hard to say who the greatest living American writer is, but I'd say it's a four-way tie among Michael Chabon, Judy Blume, Alice Walker, and Thomas Pynchon.
G. It's hard to say who the greatest living American writer is, but I'd say it's a four-way tie among Michael Chabon, Judy Blume, Alice Walker and Thomas Pynchon.
9. A. Facebook Chat, an earlier version of Messenger, isn't as popular as it once was.
B. Facebook Chat an earlier version of Messenger isn't as popular as it once was.
10. F. I couldn't afford to go to the furniture store, so I checked Craigslist a yard sale, and a garage sale.
G. I couldn't afford to go to the furniture store, so I checked Craigslist, a yard sale, and a garage sale.

Drill 2

1. A. There are three ways to tell time in my room: my wristwatch, my pocketwatch, and my old grandfather clock.
B. There are three ways to tell time in my room: my wristwatch my pocketwatch, and my old grandfather clock.
2. F. The name Syd Barrett, Pink Floyd's original singer, is now known only to the band's superfans.
G. The name, Syd Barrett, Pink Floyd's original singer is now known only to the band's superfans.
3. A. I'm going to see a concert tonight at the Bowery Ballroom, one of New York's most notorious nightclubs.
B. I'm going to see a concert tonight at the Bowery Ballroom one of New York's most notorious nightclubs.
4. F. Turkish bread contains only four ingredients: water, flour, salt, and sesame.
G. Turkish bread contains only four ingredients: water, flour, salt and sesame.
5. A. Head to the nearest exit if you hear the fire alarm go off.
B. Head to the nearest exit, if you hear the fire alarm go off.

6. F. Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and Jimmy Page were all members of the Yardbirds at one point or another.
- G. Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, and Jimmy Page were all members of the Yardbirds at one point or another.
7. A. Every time I go to the store, I have to buy a candy bar.
- B. Every time, I go to the store, I have to buy a candy bar.
8. F. Actually the new conditioner made her hair much shinier.
- G. Actually, the new conditioner made her hair much shinier.
9. A. The best time to see a hockey game is Saturday afternoon.
- B. The best time, to see a hockey game, is Saturday afternoon.
10. F. Whenever I'm at the airport, I'm always amazed that FedEx, UPS's main competitor, has such huge jets.
- G. Whenever I'm at the airport, I'm always amazed that FedEx UPS's main competitor has such huge jets.

Drill 3

1. A. *The Atlantic Monthly* does a fiction issue every summer.
- B. *The Atlantic Monthly* does a fiction issue, every summer.
2. F. Colleen's cuticles were especially dry, so the nail technician suggested lotion, ointment, or Vaseline.
- G. Colleen's cuticles were especially dry, so the nail technician suggested lotion, ointment or Vaseline.
3. A. No matter which song you like best you have to admit the Beatles have a lot of great songs.
- B. No matter which song you like best, you have to admit the Beatles have a lot of great songs.
4. F. Originally opened in 1871 Grand Central Station is one of the most impressive train stations in the world.
- G. Originally opened in 1871, Grand Central Station is one of the most impressive train stations in the world.

5. A. Uncertain why it mattered so much, Sally studied hard for the ACT.
B. Uncertain why it mattered so much Sally studied hard for the ACT.
6. F. Named for the shape of its wings, the comma butterfly is found mainly in the temperate areas in Europe and Asia.
G. Named for the shape of its wings the comma butterfly is found mainly in the temperate areas in Europe and Asia.
7. A. I need to take my dirty clothes to the laundromat the one on the corner.
B. I need to take my dirty clothes to the laundromat, the one on the corner.
8. F. The south, of France, is beautiful this time of year.
G. The south of France is beautiful this time of year.
9. A. I couldn't decide between Honey-Nut Cheerios, Raisin Bran, Golden Grahams and Apple Jacks, so I bought all four.
B. I couldn't decide between Honey-Nut Cheerios, Raisin Bran, Golden Grahams, and Apple Jacks, so I bought all four.
10. F. In any case, brushing your teeth three times a day isn't such a bad thing.
G. In any case brushing your teeth three times a day isn't such a bad thing.

Commas Drill 1

In the following sentences, cross out the commas IF they are unnecessary or incorrectly placed. Some sentences have more than one comma error, and some sentences are correct as written.

1. The book, you're reading right now, looks really interesting.
2. I always meant to study more for the ACT, but I just couldn't find the time.
3. Jack loved to listen to music, and to play games on his new iPhone, which he had purchased the day before.
4. Every time, I go on Twitter, there's always something interesting next to something really annoying.
5. When I see an action movie, I love the explosions, but not the romantic subplot.
6. Every, single time I work out I feel like I'm going to puke.
7. The Flyers won the game in overtime, but they should have won it earlier.

8. My grandparents used to listen, to the radio, but now they just watch TV.
9. Of all the cities, I've visited, my favorites are probably Paris, France, and San Francisco, California.
10. Squash is not well known in the United States, yet it is one of the most popular sports, in Egypt.
11. Next time I go to the store, I'm going to get peanut butter, jelly, and, bread.
12. It seemed like the characters' treatment of their dog in the movie was exceedingly, inhumane, and hurtful.
13. On sunny summer days, history, museums don't seem so appealing.
14. Jazz, whether you like that style of music or not, was one of the most important cultural movements of the twentieth century.
15. Sometimes, when Americans, who love Chinese food, go to China, they find, ironically, that they don't like the food.

Commas Drill 2

Add commas if necessary. If you add commas, state why you need them.

1. We'd like to hire you for the job and we hope you can start Monday.

Why?

2. If you'd like to lose weight try eating better drinking more water and exercising regularly.

Why?

3. The Philadelphia Phillies my favorite baseball team won the World Series in 2008.

Why?

4. We took a scary drive on a dark stormy night.

Why?

5. When used properly commas can really help to improve the clarity of a sentence.

Why?

6. The lecturer's style was a little dull but so informative.

Why?

7. I don't typically like Thai food yet I must admit I could drink Thai iced teas all day long.

Why?

8. Some people still buy CDs but most have switched to digital music mainly for the convenience.

Why?

9. I prefer a walk in the park to a walk around a city block.

Why?

10. Around here you're out of luck if you won't buy your groceries at A&P Shop-Rite or Pathmark.

Why?

11. The author Philip Roth wrote some of my favorite books.

Why?

12. Sometimes I think plums the red ones especially are the best fruits in the world.

Why?

13. Ice hockey is a fun challenging sport and it's great to watch.

Why?

14. I don't think I could go five minutes without checking my e-mail or updating my Facebook status.

Why?

15. When I was in college I had nothing but time but not anymore now that I'm working.

Why?

PUNCTUATION DRILL ANSWERS

Apostrophes Drill 1

1. My arteries ~~'s~~ seemed to get more and more clogged with every trip to the donut shop.
2. The pie was delicious when I first made it, but it's not so great anymore.
3. I absolutely did not expect them to be here on time, but ~~they're~~ ^{there} they are.
4. If this device needs them, then why are there no ~~battery's~~ ^{batteries} included?
5. I know the car seems out of her price range, but I'm pretty sure it's hers ~~'s~~.
6. It was time to go back to class, but the teacher didn't want to interrupt the children's game.
7. Do you have any idea ~~who's~~ ^{whose} letter this is?
8. Thank you so much for the cookies. ~~Their~~ ^{They're} delicious.
9. There's no dog in the world ~~whose~~ ^{who's} as much fun as ours ~~'s~~.
10. The politician ran on the idea that he was the people's candidate.

Apostrophes Drill 2

1. I need to start exercising more if I want to improve my **arteries'** health.
2. St. Louis seems close to Chicago, but **it's** actually five hours away by car.
3. I prefer red grapes, but **they're** never available at the grocery store.
4. Because of all the corrosion, I cannot read the part where it lists this **battery's** charge.
5. There are two hamburgers here: one is his, and the other is hers.
6. The **children's** treehouse was marked with a sign that said, "No Girls Allowed."
7. I cannot tell **who's** on the phone: I do not recognize the voice.
8. **We're** going to the concert later, so **we're** trying to relearn some of the lyrics.
9. I think I see your car across the street, and ours is over there.
10. I thought the singer was terrible, and I had no idea why he was chosen as the **people's** choice.