

Free Sample

Comma
Rules
and
Sentence
Building

Teach your students to master the comma rules, apply them in the context of writing, and build stronger sentences.

By David S. Dye, M.Ed.

Create Better Writers
•com



Permission is hereby granted to the purchaser of this book to reproduce, in sufficient quantity, to meet the needs of one classroom only. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2015 Model Citizen Publications, David S. Dye



Objective: The objective of these worksheets is to help students understand the comma rules so well that they are using the rules within the context of actual writing situations.

An added benefit of these worksheets and journal activities is that the students will also be improving their writing skills as well. They will have thirteen new “tricks” they can use to make their writing better. Throughout these worksheets, students will be encouraged to use dialogue, add adjectives and interrupters, write complex sentences, and much more. The quality of their sentences can only improve by working through this program.

Introduction:

Thank you for purchasing this eBook. These worksheets come from *Standards Based Grammar: Grades 5 and 6* and are organized in a way to maximize learning. Here are the main features of this book:

Pretest and Checklist

Begin with a pretest to help the students understand which rules they know and which rules they need to study. After completing the pretest, the students can use the checklist to keep track of the comma rules they’ve mastered and the rules that require more focus. The students can keep the checklist in a folder to reference as they complete the worksheets.

For the comma rules they already know, the students can complete the worksheets as a review. When they do the worksheets for the rules they don’t know, they will have a greater focus as they complete them.

Comma Rules Checklist		Pass	Needs Work
Rule #1 Compound Sentence	Questions: #1, #5, #10		
Rule #2 Introductory Clause	Questions: #2, #6, #11		
Rule #3 Introductory Word / Phrase	Questions: #3, #7, #12		
Rule #4 Direct Address	Questions: #21, #26, #31		
Rule #5 Adjectives	Questions: #4, #9, #14		
Rule #6 Quotations	Questions: #8, #16, #20		
Rule #7 Interrupter	Questions: #13, #18, #25		
Rule #8 Appositives	Questions: #22, #28, #33		
Rule #9 Words in a List or Phrases in a List	Questions: #15, #19, #24		
Rule #10 Avoid Confusion	Questions: #17, #30, #32		
Rule #11 <u>Like, Same or Like, Counting</u>	Questions: #23, #29, #30		
Rule #12 Day, Year / Month, Year	Questions: #27, #32, #34		
Rule #13 Grouping / Cloning in a Proximity Letter	Questions: #37		

Worksheets

As you teach the worksheets, it helps to write each rule on a poster with a sample sentence below. The students are able to use this as a reference as they complete the worksheets and as they write.

Ultimately, the goal is to help the students learn the rules to the point where they are using the comma rules correctly within their writing. With this in mind, requiring the students to use the comma rules with their writing assignments is a great way to review the skills and improve the quality of their sentences.

Extensions and Journal Activities

Because the goal for these worksheets is to have the students apply the rules for commas within their writing, many of the worksheets require that the students practice the comma rules within an actual writing situation. The extensions will give them immediate practice while the journal activities will allow them to practice several comma rules simultaneously.

Name: _____

Comma Rules
Compound Sentence / Introductory Clause
#1

Rule #1 – Compound Sentence
When two complete sentences are joined by the conjunctions *and*, *or*, or *but*, use a comma before the conjunction.

Example:
Mom went to get the food, and Dad went to get the video.

Rule #2 – Introductory Clause
When beginning a complex sentence with the dependent clause, you may want to put a comma before the independent clause.

Example:
While Melissa passed out the homework, Mr. Renaker explained our vocabulary words.
Dependent Clause Independent Clause

Directions: Place commas where they are needed.

- Do you want us to help, or would you like to do it yourself?
- Whenever my favorite song is played I dance like a wild maniac.
- We wanted to play video games but my brother broke the television.
- If Ken does all of his homework he gets to come over this weekend.
- The magician performed his tricks and the audience sat in amazement.
- The game was supposed to start at 1:00 but it started to rain.
- While I was doing my homework Brianna called me on the phone.
- After the music stopped everyone scrambled for a chair.
- We waited for ten minutes but the waiter didn't bring our food.
- Since the game did not start for an hour we explored the stadium.

Extension: Write five compound sentences about children on a playground.

CreateBetterWriters.com 5

Extension: Write five compound sentences about children on a playground.

Post Test and Project

The post test will give you a first look at which students have a general understanding of the comma rules. However, if the students cannot apply the rules within the context of writing, they have not achieved the goal for these lessons.

The project is an opportunity to get more practice using the comma rules within the context of writing. With this project, the students will be writing a story using all the comma rules they've learned. They will also be reading stories written by their classmates while searching for comma rules used by them. Through this process your students will benefit from peer tutoring in ways they could not learn from the teacher.

Enjoy!



**Comma Rules
Project**

Project #1: Comma Rules Story
Write a story using each comma rule at least once. When finished, underline all the sentences that follow the comma rules. Trade your story with a neighbor. Write the name of each comma rule below his/her sentences.

Project #2: Sentence Structure Story
1. Write a story using the following:
a. Compound Sentence
b. Compound Subject
c. Compound Predicate
d. Complex Sentence
e. Compound-Complex Sentence
f. Any three comma rules
2. Label each sentence. Write the items from step 1 under the sentences in your story. If you are missing any of these items, revise your story.
3. Revise and edit your story.
4. Write the final draft of your story.

Project #3: Sentence Structure Chapter Summary
1. Select a chapter from any story book. Use a book you are currently reading for silent reading or book reports.
2. Write a summary of the chapter using the pattern below:
Sentence #1 – Quotations
Sentence #2 – Complex Sentence
Sentence #3 – Appositive
Sentence #4 – Compound Sentence
Sentence #5 – Adjectives
Sentence #6 – Interrupter

CreateSomeWriters.com34

Table of Contents

Instructions for the Teacher	1
Comma Rules Checklist	2
Pre-Test	3
Worksheets	
1. Compound Sentence - Introductory Clause	5
2. Introductory Word/Phrase – Direct Address	7
3. Comma Rules Practice: Rules #1 – 4	9
4. Adjectives - Quotations	11
5. Review of Rules #1 - #6	13
6. Interrupter – Appositives	15
7. Comma Rules Practice: Rules #5 – 8	17
8. Words / Phrases in a Series	19
9. City, State – Day, Year	21
10. Friendly Letter Greeting and Closing	23
11. Review of Rules #7-13	24
12. Comma Rules Practice: Rules #9 – 13	26
13. Review of Rules #1-13	28
14. Literature Scavenger Hunt	30
Post-Test	31
Comma Rules Project	34
Answer Key	35

Name: _____

Comma Rules Checklist

Directions: Below is a record of the comma rules that you passed and the rules that still need to be learned. For the rules you know, the worksheets will serve as a review. For the rules you haven't learned yet, pay extra attention when completing the worksheets.

Comma Rules	Pass	Needs Work
Rule #1 Compound Sentence <i>Questions: #1, #5, #10</i>		
Rule #2 Introductory Clause <i>Questions: #2, #6, #11</i>		
Rule #3 Introductory Word / Phrase <i>Questions: #3, #7, #12</i>		
Rule #4 Direct Address <i>Questions: #21, #26, #31</i>		
Rule #5 Adjectives <i>Questions: #4, #9, #14</i>		
Rule #6 Quotations <i>Questions: #8, #16, #20</i>		
Rule #7 Interrupter <i>Questions: #13, #18, #25</i>		
Rule #8 Appositives <i>Questions: #22, #28, #35</i>		
Rule #9 Words in a List or Phrases in a List <i>Questions: #15, #19, #24</i>		
Rule #10 Avoid Confusion <i>Questions: #17, #30, #33</i>		
Rule #11 <u>City, State</u> or <u>City, Country</u> <i>Questions: #23, #29, #36</i>		
Rule #12 Day, Year / Month, Year <i>Questions: #27, #32, #34</i>		
Rule #13 Greeting / Closing in a Friendly Letter <i>Questions: #37</i>		

Comma Rules Pretest

Directions: Place comma where they are needed in the sentences below. Make your commas dark and clear.

1. We wanted to go to the movies but my mom couldn't take us until tomorrow.
2. When the general enters the room the soldiers will stand at attention.
3. Wait the doctor will be back in a minute.
4. The crowd watched the big powerful wrestler jump into the ring.
5. Our school is putting on a play and everyone wants to be in it.
6. Unless they practice harder they will never win the championship.
7. Of course students who study will do well on the test.
8. "My mom is the best cook in the world" said Charlie.
9. The students took turns petting the bunny's soft fluffy coat.
10. We can meet at the mall or we can drive there together.

Thank you for
previewing
*Comma Rules and
Sentence Building.*

Comma Rules **Compound Sentence / Introductory Clause** **#1**

Rule #1 – Compound Sentence

When two complete sentences are joined by the conjunctions *or*, *and*,
or *but*, use a comma before the conjunction.

Example:

Mom went to get the food, and Dad went to get the video.

Rule #2 – Introductory Clause

When beginning a complex sentence with the dependent clause, you may want
to put a comma before the independent clause.

Example:

While Melissa passed out the homework, Mr. Renaker explained our vocabulary words.

Dependent Clause

Independent Clause

Directions: Place commas where they are needed.

1. Do you want us to help, or would you like to do it yourself?
2. Whenever my favorite song is played I dance like a wild maniac.
3. We wanted to play video games but my brother broke the television.
4. If Ken does all of his homework he gets to come over this weekend.
5. The magician performed his tricks and the audience sat in amazement.
6. The game was supposed to start at 1:00 but it started to rain.
7. While I was doing my homework Brianna called me on the phone.
8. After the music stopped everyone scrambled for a chair.
9. We waited for ten minutes but the waiter didn't bring our food.
10. Since the game did not start for an hour we explored the stadium.

Extension: Write five compound sentences about children on a playground.

Comma Rules
Introductory Word-Phrase / Direct Address
#1

Rule #3 – Introductory Word / Phrase

Use a comma to set apart an introductory word or phrase from the rest of the sentence.

Examples: Yes, you may go to the dance after school.

Of course, go directly to your grandma’s house when it’s over.

Rule #4 – Direct Address

Use a comma, or commas, to set apart a sentence from the one being addressed.

Examples: John, there are tacos in the refrigerator for you.

There are tacos, John, in the refrigerator for you.

There are tacos in the refrigerator for you, John.

Directions: Place commas where they are needed. Next, write the name of the rule below each sentence.

1. Yes, I’m mad at you for chewing up my shoe, Rover.

Introductory Word

Direct Address

2. Sorry I won’t be able to meet you after school today Kim.

3. Of course we are going to take pictures before she leaves.

Thank you for
previewing
*Comma Rules and
Sentence Building.*

Comma Rules Paragraphs Rules 1 - 4

If you can use the comma rules within your writing, you have truly mastered the rules. The journal topics below will give you practice with this. Complete each journal assignment below to work on mastery of Comma Rules 1 – 4.

Journal #1

1. On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph using the pattern below. Skip lines.

Topic: The Competition – Write a story about a big contest of any kind.

2. Trade your paragraph with a neighbor. Underline his/her comma rules, and write the name of the comma rule below the sentence. If your partner used a comma rule incorrectly, be sure to let them know.

Sentence #1 – Write a sentence explaining where and when your story takes place.

Sentence #2 – Compound Sentence

Sentence #3 – Introductory Clause

Sentence #4 – Direct Address

Sentence #5 – Introductory Clause

Sentence #6 - Bring your story to an end.

Example:

Emilio and Carlos have been clashing for an hour in Carlos' garage for the title of

Sentence #1 - Where and When

Ultimate Ping-Pong Champion. Emilio had been losing for most of the time, but now

Sentence #2 - Compound Sentence

they were tied at two games with the score 20 – 20. When Carlos took the lead, Emilio

Sentence #3 - Introductory Clause

came back with two quick points to take the lead for the first time in this game. “Carlos,

Sentence #4 - Direct Address

you're going down,” he told himself. As Emilio smashed his serve across the net, Carlos

Sentence #5 - Introductory Clause

made a spectacular shot across the corner. Emilio made an amazing return of his own

Sentence #6 - End of Story

across the side of the table to win the game and the title.

Journal #2

Repeat the process from Journal #1. Write a paragraph using the pattern below. When finished, trade your paragraph with a neighbor. Underline his/her comma rules, and write the name of the comma rule below the sentence. If your partner used a comma rule incorrectly, be sure to let them know.

Topic: A Shocking Moment

Sentence #1 – Write a sentence explaining where and when your story takes place.

Sentence #2 – Introductory Word / Phrase

Sentence #3 – Direct Address

Sentence #4 – Compound Sentence

Sentence #5 – Introductory Clause

Sentence #6 - Any closing sentence.

Thank you for
previewing
*Comma Rules and
Sentence Building.*