

Answers to Punctuation Self-assessment Quiz

Question number	Type of Mark	AOW Page Containing Answer & Explanation
1.	period or semicolon	560 or 562
2.	comma	560, A
3.	comma	561, B and 573, E [both sections address the same concern]
4.	comma	561, C
5.	comma	561, C
6.	comma	561, D
7.	comma	561, E
8.	comma	562, F
9.	semicolon	562
10.	colon	562
11.	apostrophe	563
12.	apostrophe	563
13.	apostrophe	563
14.	quotation marks	563
15.	quotation marks	563
16.	quotation marks	563
17.	quotation marks	564
18.	quotation marks	564
19.	quotation marks	564
20.	parentheses	564
21.	brackets	565
22.	question mark	566
23.	comma	573, A
24.	comma	573, B

25. comma 573, C
26. comma 573, D

Answers to the last six questions do not appear in *Acting on Words*, so they are provided here, with page references to the pages that explain the principles used in the corrections.

27. He read every book on the course, yet he did not read them actively.

comma 557, CE8E

28. I will call a meeting for tomorrow, or you will have to get in touch with the communications department yourself.

comma 557, CE8E

29. The Bretton Woods Agreement of 1944 was designed to create full employment and social security. Since USA president Richard Nixon abandoned the agreement in 1971, wealth has moved upwards from the poor and middle class to the enormously rich.

Fused sentence 551-52, CE2

Note: The various ways of correcting a comma splice can be used equally to correct a fused sentence. The above correction uses one of those four choices. See p. 552 AOW for three other options.

30. Some critics claim that life today is like a game of musical chairs; the problem, some say, is that we have little choice about whether to play.

Fused sentence 551-52, CE2

Note: A period followed by a capital letter for the first letter of the word “the” could be used in place of the semicolon. See p. 552 AOW for two other possible ways to correct the fused thoughts.

31. In his book *Dark Age America*, Morris Berman informs us that “[t]he Italian political theorist Antonio Gramsci pointed out long ago that if you capture people’s minds, their hands will follow. He called this ‘hegemony’...”(19).

No single comma between a subject and its verb 557, CE8F

Note: The incorrect comma after “Gramsci” has been removed. This comma does not appear in Berman’s printed sentence. As too often happens, the researcher has introduced an error in the course of transcribing. “Antonio Gramsci” is the simple subject of the sentence. The words preceding that name are considered modifiers. If there were only one political theorist in Italy, then the name would be considered a non-restrictive qualifier and surrounded by commas according to CE8B, p. 557. Also see CE15, p. 584, on the importance of accurately identifying restrictive and non-restrictive qualifiers

For information on parenthetical page number citations using MLA style, see Chapter 12, p. 314. Also see “The Basics of Documentation” at the Athabasca University Write Site at <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/services/write-site>.

For information on the use of quotation marks, brackets, and ellipsis, see pages 545, 547, and 548. The bracket around the “t” of the word “the” is because the quoted words from Berman occur in the original source as a new sentence. Thus the word “the” is capitalized in that source. The writer using these exact words turns the “t” into a lower case letter to fit the grammar of the sentence that introduces and provides the quotation.

32. Berman also states the following: “Despite the unifying patriotic rhetoric that permeates the United States, on some level Americans are not really fooled...” (15).

No single comma between a subject and its verb 557, CE8F

Note: The incorrect comma after the subject of the sentence, “Americans,” has been removed. This comma does not appear in Berman’s printed sentence. As too often happens, the researcher has introduced an error in the course of transcribing.

For information on the use of quotation marks and ellipsis, see pages 545 and 548. For information on parenthetical page number citations using MLA style, see Chapter 12, p. 314. Also see “The Basics of Documentation” at the Athabasca University Write Site at <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/services/write-site>.

My mark out of 32: _____

Do not be too concerned if you were uncertain about the questions involving quotation marks or other aspects of academic style, such as the use of brackets. These issues require experience with formal academic usage. However, you need to become familiar with these usages as soon as possible and to apply them in your post-secondary academic writing. Your score on this self-assessment is not as important as whether you understand the principles, as illustrated in the referenced pages of *Acting on Words*, and feel confident that you can begin to apply these principles from here on. These matters require attention to fine detail—an essential of careful academic writing.