

# Commas for Names and Titles

↪ In general: Profession + NAME  
NAME, profession,

↪ In depth: If the name or title is NON-essential, then place it between 2 commas

↓  
How to judge if its non-essential? \*

\* a) If the sentence makes sense without the name and

b) If there is only 1 person who fits the description in the text

Then, their name will be non-essential

e.g. If Peter has 2 daughters, then he might say / specify

My daughter Rose did xyz

However, if Peter only had 1 daughter, he would say

My daughter, Rose, did xyz

↪ Hence Rose is not essential because even if Peter does not mention her name, we would know who he is talking about since he only has 1 daughter

Ada Lovelace and her \_\_\_\_\_ were two of the most influential figures in the history of computer science. After Babbage sketched out his ideas for an "analytical engine," Lovelace demonstrated that the machine might be able to carry out a variety of complex tasks.

1. [Mark for Review] Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

acquaintance, Charles Babbage.  
 acquaintance Charles Babbage  
 acquaintance Charles Babbage,  
 acquaintance, Charles Babbage

The city of Pompeii, which was buried in ash following the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE, continues to be studied by archaeologists. Unfortunately, as \_\_\_\_\_ attest, archaeological excavations have disrupted ash deposits at the site, causing valuable information about the eruption to be lost.

15

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. researchers, Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn,  
B. researchers, Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn  
C. researchers Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn  
D. researchers Roberto Scandone, and Christopher Kilburn

You selected answer A. The correct answer is C.

Born Elaine Potter Richardson in Antigua, Caribbean-American \_\_\_\_\_ began her career as a journalist, only later turning to fiction. In 1985, she published the novel *Annie John*, a semi-autobiographical story of a young girl growing up in Antigua.

1. [Mark for Review] Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

author, Jamaica Kincaid  
 author Jamaica Kincaid  
 author, Jamaica Kincaid,  
 author Jamaica Kincaid,

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Placing a pair of commas around the coordinated noun phrase "Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn" creates an illogical separation between the noun "researchers" and the aforementioned coordinated noun phrase. In this case, it illogically suggests that researchers in general bear the specific names Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn.

15

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. researchers, Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn,  
B. researchers, Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn  
C. researchers Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn  
D. researchers Roberto Scandone, and Christopher Kilburn

You selected answer A. The correct answer is C.

Jamaica Kincaid (born May 25, 1949) is a novelist, essayist, and gardener. Born Elaine Potter Richardson in Antigua, she came to the United States at the age of 17 to work as an au pair in Westchester County, New York. She eventually won a scholarship to Franconia College in New Hampshire but returned to New York City to write. In 1985, she published \_\_\_\_\_ a semi-autobiographical story of a young girl growing up in Antigua that won acclaim for the honesty of its depiction of familial relationships.

1. [Mark for Review] Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

the novel, *Annie John*,  
 the novel *Annie John*,  
 the novel *Annie John*,  
 the novel *Annie John*,

8. First recorded in 1835, polio became the most serious public health problem of the mid-twentieth century, and scientists searched frantically for a cure. During the 1940s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was the world's most recognized polio victim, having founded the \_\_\_\_\_ to spur the development of new treatments.

organization, March of Dimes  
 organization March of Dimes  
 Organization, March of Dimes,  
 Organization March of Dimes,

14. Best known for the series of 10 plays collectively referred to as "The Pittsburgh Cycle," the explores universal themes while exploring the experiences and heritage of the African American community throughout the twentieth century.

1. [Mark for Review] Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

playwright, August Wilson,  
 playwright, August Wilson  
 playwright August Wilson,  
 playwright August Wilson

1. According to one scholar, the Singer sewing machine emerged from a collaboration between a so-called mechanical \_\_\_\_\_ and a lawyer, Edward Clark. Singer may or may not have been a genius with machines, but he was remarkably adept at displaying his name: it appeared multiple times on the machines he and Clark produced.

genius Isaac Merritt Singer,  
 genius Isaac Merritt Singer  
 genius, Isaac Merritt Singer,  
 genius Isaac Merritt Singer,

# Reddit says it's (A) the \_\_\_\_\_

profession name

↪ Exception: The passage treats the name of the lawyer as non-essential thus we must treat the name of the genius as non-essential too.

- # W-words like 'who' and 'where' can be both dependent or independent so be careful with them.
- ↳ which and who are (almost) exclusively in dependent clauses
- ↳ Replacing 'which' in a dependent clause with 'that', can make the clause independent

The advantages of growing up in a bilingual home can start as early as six months of age. A study conducted by York University's Institute of Health found that \_\_\_\_ show better attentional control than infants being raised in monolingual environments. The findings suggest that early exposure to multiple languages could set the stage for lifelong cognitive benefits.

1 Mark for Review SATURDAY

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) infants, who are regularly exposed to more than one language.

(B) infants who are regularly exposed to more than one language.

(C) infants, who are regularly exposed to more than one language

(D) infants who are regularly exposed to more than one language

A is wrong because the idea in the comma is essential for the given context

B is wrong because the comma is unnecessary as it is not joining anything; the comma is simply in the middle of the subject and verb

## # Comma CANNOT be used between subject and verb

This rule holds true even when subjects are extremely long and complex, as in the example below. Even though you may feel that a pause is necessary, in strict grammatical terms, no comma should be used.

- Incorrect: What is particularly remarkable about Ada Lovelace's work on Charles Babbage's "analytical engine," is that Lovelace foresaw many of the ways in which computers are used today.
- Correct: What is particularly remarkable about Ada Lovelace's work on Charles Babbage's "analytical engine" is that Lovelace foresaw many of the ways in which computers are used today.

9. Yurts have been a distinctive feature of life in Central Asia for at least three thousand years. The first written description of a yurt used as a \_\_\_\_ recorded by Herodotus, who described yurt-like tents as the homes of the Scythians: horse-riding nomads who lived in the northern Black Sea and Central Asia during the first millennium A.D.

- (A) dwelling was ✓
- (B) dwellings, was
- (C) dwelling has been
- (D) dwelling, had been

- # commas cannot be used before or after "that", unless the comma after it marks the start of a non-essential clause
- # comma cannot be used before self words: itself, myself, yourself, themselves, them, etc.
- # NO commas between adjectives and nouns
- # NO commas after subordinating conjunctions: Although, Because, As, If, etc.
- # No commas before or after prepositions: in, on, between, etc.

- # No commas used between adjectives if the first modifies the second
- Example: innovative, passionate ant ↗ both adjectives are only modifying the noun
- inexpensive, professional camera X inexpensive professional camera ↗ because professional inexpensive camera makes no sense
- ↳ "inexpensive" is describing "professional camera" as a whole
- # Note: If switching the order of the adjectives changes the meaning then do NOT use a comma between them
- # "there" can act as a subject in a sentence

- Example: Taking their work very seriously, there are many athletes, who ... INCORRECT  
(incorrect)
- Dangling Modifiers ↗ Incomplete out of place subject ↗ actual subject of dangling modifier
- Example: Taking their work very seriously, many athletes ... CORRECT  
(correct)
- Dangling Modifiers ↗ actual subject of dangling modifier

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. many critics have focused on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources but
- B. Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources has been the focus of many critics, who
- C. there are many critics who have focused on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources, but they
- D. the focus of many critics has been on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources; they

## # Dangling Modifiers

Sentences that include dangling modifiers are characterized by an introductory phrase that describes (modifies) the subject but does not name it. This phrase is always followed by a comma. In addition, introductory phrases often-but not always-begin with -ing words (participles). Whenever a sentence contains an introductory phrase, the subject must appear immediately after the comma. If the subject does not appear in that place, the modifier is dangling, and the sentence is incorrect.

Incorrect: An elementary school teacher from Arkansas, **Bessie Boehm Moore's goal** was to achieve increased funding and support for public libraries.

Who is the elementary school teacher from Arkansas? **Bessie Boehm Moore**, not her **goal**.

Correct: An elementary school teacher from Arkansas, **Bessie Boehm Moore** had the goal of achieving increased funding and support for public libraries.

It is, however, acceptable to begin the main clause with a modifier describing the subject because that description is considered part of the complete subject.

Correct: A native of Arkansas, **elementary school teacher Bessie Boehm Moore** had the goal of achieving increased funding and support for public libraries.

**Important:** When fixing dangling modifiers, focus on identifying who or what the introductory phrase refers to (i.e., the subject). The correct answer must place the subject right afterwards. For example:

## # Misplaced Modifiers

**Important:** Which should refer to the noun before it. The placement of which in the incorrect version below implies the environmental movement rather than pesticides caused bird populations to drop.

Incorrect: Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* revealed the dangers of **pesticides** and initiated the environmental movement, **which** had caused a sharp decline in bird populations.

Correct: The environmental movement was initiated when Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* revealed the dangers of **pesticides**, **which** had caused a sharp decline in bird populations.

Pigeons have long played an important role as messengers, as a result of their hunting ability, speed, and altitude. During the Franco-Prussian War in 1871, the French military used pigeons to transport messages to Paris.

Mark for Review  
Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- (a) time when the city was surrounded by Prussian troops.
- (b) at the time, the city was surrounded by Prussian troops.
- (c) that time being one when the city was surrounded by Prussian troops.
- (d) the city was surrounded by Prussian troops at the time.

5. Bioluminescence is light created by a chemical reaction produced within an organism. Most bioluminescent organisms are found in the ocean, although a few, including fireflies and certain fungi, are found on land. \_\_\_\_\_ some form of bioluminescence is produced by approximately 90% of deep-sea creatures, including fish, bacteria, and jellies.

- (a) Dwelling almost exclusively in saltwater habitats.
- (b) They dwell almost exclusively within saltwater habitats.
- (c) Saltwater habitats being dwelled in almost exclusively by them.
- (d) Bioluminescent organisms dwell almost exclusively in saltwater habitats, and ✓

Pigeons have long played an important role as messengers, as a result of their hunting ability, speed, and altitude. \_\_\_\_\_ a time when the city was surrounded by Prussian troops.

Mark for Review  
Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- (a) During the Franco-Prussian War in 1871, the French military used pigeons to transport messages to Paris.
- (b) During the Franco-Prussian War in 1871, pigeons were used by the French military to transport messages to Paris.
- (c) Pigeons were used to transport messages to Paris during the Franco-Prussian War in 1871. ✓
- (d) In 1871, during the Franco-Prussian War, the French military using pigeons to transport messages to Paris.

# who vs whom → used after a preposition

↓

used before a verb

↳ who do you trust

(almost)  
A verb should **never** come after whom, in such cases who should be used instead. ↳ **EXCEPTION:** a verb may be used after "pronoun + of whom" e.g.  
in whom do you place your trust

↓ pronoun

And he has many friends; most of whom believe that he is a great person  
↳ verb

that may or may not occur // be true

# Will vs Would → used for something "hypothetical" in the future

↳ on when referring to the future in the past // on for a recurring action in the past

used for something "definitive" in the future

↳ that is going to occur  
used to indicate predictions, hopes and suggestions

Correct: Over the next several decades, demographers believe, millions of people will migrate to cities from rural areas.

Correct: Scientists now use machine learning algorithms to predict how long lithium-ion battery will last.

12. In 1963, Lina Wertmüller directed her first film, *The Basildicks*. Although it received mixed reviews, it featured a distinctive combination of ethnographic satire and impressionistic drama that \_\_\_\_\_ Wertmüller's future works.

- (a) characterize ✓
- (b) will characterize
- (c) would characterize ✗
- (d) are characteristic of ✗

The Fireside Poets, so called because families would read them aloud in front of their fireplaces, were as popular in the nineteenth century as rock stars are today.

# Present Perfect Tense: The words for, over, during, since (FODS) are used in the SAT to signal the student to use Present Perfect Tense

## # Past Perfect Tense:

Past perfect = *had + past participle*, e.g., *had painted, had done, had grown*

- When a sentence refers to two finished actions, the past perfect is used to describe only the action that happened first.

Important: the phrase *by the time* is a tip-off that the past perfect is required. For example:

Martha Graham, an American dancer and choreographer, is known as one of the foremost pioneers of modern dance. Building upon the foundation of turn-of-the-century dancer Isadora Duncan, Graham brought this art form to a new level with her introduction of dance techniques that at first horrified and then later won over the American public. **By the time** she **retired** from the stage in 1970, she gave hundreds of performances and permanently altered the course of dance in the United States.

The presence of the phrase *by the time* indicates that the past perfect is required. You can also think of it this way: logically, Martha Graham must have given hundreds of performances (action #1) before she retired (action #2). (D) is thus correct.

3. Many major historical inventions occurred simultaneously in multiple places. Writing, in contrast, had only a few independent origins, and the alphabet \_\_\_\_\_ only once in history.

<input type="radio"/> has arisen	✓
<input checked="" type="radio"/> had arisen	
<input type="radio"/> arises	
<input type="radio"/> arose	



## # Would have vs Will have:

Past conditional = *would have + verb*

*Would have* is used to describe an action that could have happened, but that did not actually occur.

The most important thing to know about this tense is that *would have + past participle* should not appear in a clause begun by *if*, although this construction can appear in the same sentence.

Incorrect: If the Washington Monument **would have been** constructed as originally designed, the National Mall **would have been** anchored by a pantheon of 30 columns.

Correct: If the Washington Monument **had been** constructed as originally designed, the National Mall **would have been** anchored by a pantheon of 30 columns.

Future perfect = *will have + verb*

*Will have* is used to describe a future action that will be finished *before* a second action occurs.

→ similar to past perfect tense

As is true for the past perfect, this tense is often associated with the phrase *by the time*.

Correct: By the time construction on the GIFT Diamond Tower is complete, workers **will have spent** more than three years assembling the 87-story building.

} IF ... **would have been** XX      IF ... **had been** ✓ ✘

## # "By the time" is an indicator for both: past perfect tense and future perfect tense

→ variations like "by the end" are also indicators for using past perfect tense

10. In 1860, the Lincoln-Douglas debates \_\_\_\_\_ as an important campaign document in the presidential race, which pitted Lincoln against Douglas for the second time. In this case, however, Douglas was running as the candidate of a divided party and finished a distant second in the popular vote.



- |  |
|--|
| <input type="radio"/> have been printed as a book and used       |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> were printed as a book and used |
| <input type="radio"/> were printed as a book and had been used   |
| <input type="radio"/> printed as a book and used                 |

→ The debates **had to be printed first** before they could be used. Thus option C is incorrect as it implies that the debates were used before being printed as a book in the first place which makes no sense. They were obviously printed first and then used second.

## # Active vs Passive Voice: When 2 options are grammatically correct, pick the option that is in active voice

Assuming that there is no additional error involved, if you are trying to decide between an answer with an active construction and an answer with a passive one, you can assume that the active option will be right.

In response to the demand for long-lasting staple foods during the 1970s, \_\_\_\_\_. As result, the nutritional value of many packaged foods declined.



1 Mark for Review

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- |  |
|--|
| <input type="radio"/> preservatives were added by manufacturers to dishes that previously were simple. |
| <input type="radio"/> the addition of preservatives to manufacturers to previously simple dishes.      |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> manufacturers added preservatives to previously simple dishes.        |
| <input type="radio"/> previously simple dishes had preservatives added to them by manufacturers.       |

Every (One)



# Pronoun - Each and Every : Both should be treated as singular subjects

↓  
Each (One)

: Example - Each of the options is good

- Every option is good

: Even when referring to people, the use of "each" or "every" makes the subject singular

Note: both each and every are singular (short for each one or every one) and take the singular pronouns it and he or she.

Incorrect: Each of the researchers will present their work at the conference.

Correct: Each of the researchers will present his or her work at the conference.

Incorrect: Every one of the researchers will present their work at the conference.

Correct: Every one of the researchers will present his or her work at the conference.

#

One	One, One's
We	Us, Our
You	You, Your

## # When to use Nouns over Pronouns ( nouns > pronouns )

- when the subject is implied but not explicitly stated in the (previous) clause
- "that" and "this" are usually never used as standalone pronouns (because they can be vague), instead they are (almost) always followed by a noun
- when using a pronoun makes the subject ambiguous. For example if there are 2 subjects in the first clause, using a singular pronoun in the second clause makes it unclear as to which of the 2 subjects the pronoun is referring to.

Example :

7. The illegal clearing of Mexican forests once caused the Monarch butterfly to come close to losing its habitat. In recent years, \_\_\_\_\_

✗ ✗

this has declined.

that has declined.

these have declined.

this threat has declined.

↓ noun after "this"

Over the last several decades, the Internet has fundamentally changed how we live, work, and play. From virtual classrooms to electronic banking to online gaming, many of our daily actions and interactions are now governed by the web. While \_\_\_\_\_ has numerous benefits, it has some drawbacks as well.

Mark for Review

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

this

that

these

this technology

↓ noun after "this"

Produced by the Boston-based startup Superpedestrian, a new device called the Copenhagen Wheel can be slipped onto any bicycle to provide an electronic boost. With a 350-watt motor and a 48-volt lithium battery, it can produce more than four times the energy created by regular pedaling. \_\_\_\_\_ can use a smartphone to unlock and lock it, change gears, and select how much assistance the motor should provide.

1 Mark for Review

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

They

Bicycle riders

He or she

Some

Daniel Liebeskind and Frank Gehry are among the most celebrated architects in the world. \_\_\_\_\_ known for using unconventional building materials such as corrugated metal to create tilted geometric structures

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1 Mark for Review

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

He is known

It is known

Gehry is known

He would be known

## # Effect of non-essential clauses on noun-pronoun agreement :

If there are 2 subjects in a clause, but 1 of the subjects is in a non-essential clause ; then the pronoun used in the subsequent clause will be singular, only referring to the subject outside the non-essential clause.

On the other hand, you must watch out for constructions that appear to be plural but are in fact singular.

Example :

Incorrect: Orville Wright, along with his brother Wilbur, are considered inventors of the airplane.

Correct: Orville Wright, along with his brother Wilbur, is considered an inventor of the airplane.

Notice that this example contains a non-essential clause after Orville Wright. If that clause is removed, the error reveals itself: Orville Wright...are considered inventors of the airplane. Clearly that does not make sense.

Orville Wright, the true subject of the sentence, was one person and therefore an inventor, singular.

# Pronouns "Whose" and "That" can refer to both people and things

↓  
less commonly accepted and more controversial than "whose" when it comes to referring to people

possessive form of both "who" and "which"  
↓                    ↓  
people                things

# Where → Place      When → Time } Preposition + Which → Both

# Whenceby = "by which"  
or

" = "according to which"

physical location(s)

↑

↳ "which" by itself is used for multiple: inanimate objects  
: animals  
: abstract ideas, neurons, etc.

↳ using "pronoun" + "of which" or "of whom" makes the clause dependent      (where applicable)  
↳ using "of them" instead would keep the clause independent

↳ e.g. ... , many of whom are BLANK → DEPENDENT  
... ; many of them are BLANK → INDEPENDENT

# "They" and "them" can be used for both people AND things

humans, animals, plants, species, etc.

# Relative pronouns form **DEPENDENT** clauses

**Exceptions:** In very specific cases where the relative pronoun is the main subject  
(Dependent clauses)

who, whom, which, whose, that, when, where

relative pronouns (except "that") often form the start of non-essential clauses  
(they can form essential clauses too)

e.g. Where the meeting would be located was a subject of extreme debate.

out of the w-wonds, "when" and "where" are most likely to be able to act as main subjects

# Question Marks

**Direct questions** do exactly what their name implies: they ask questions directly and **end with a question mark**. Note that in this construction, the question is a separate element that makes sense on its own.

Correct: When Orson Welles' *War of the Worlds* was broadcast as a radio play in 1938, some listeners asked themselves the following question: is this a piece of theater or a live broadcast?

**Indirect questions** are embedded in longer sentences; however, and **a period is used**. Very often (but not always), this construction involves clauses begun by *whether* or *if*.

Correct: When Orson Welles' *War of the Worlds* was broadcast as a radio play in 1938, some listeners could not tell *whether/if* it was a piece of theater or a live broadcast.

In this case, the section of the sentence that expresses uncertainty cannot be detached from the larger sentence. As a result, it is a statement, and a period must be placed at the end of it.