

Exe 3: Punctuation (Section 2-3)**ANSWER KEY**

Use this Answer Key to check through your work on Sections 2-3 of Exe 4 and see whether you're on track.

If you need more punctuation practice, you can try rationalizing the use of punctuation in the sentences on below. Plus, there are plenty of online exercises, some of which I provide links to under Week 5 of my CourseSpaces site

Here are the unpunctuated sentences from the second part of the Punctuation EXE, properly punctuated:

1. Serious problems require a serious tool: written reports. (Edward Tufte)
2. In this article, I conclude that for engineers the ethical burden is just that: a weight from which we can never fully be relieved, try as we might. (Paul M. Dombrowski)
3. Ethics is what is problematic: it is not a fixed set of rules but an ongoing human activity that must continually be thrashed out for particular circumstances and people. (P. Dombrowski)

OR

Ethics is what is problematic; it is not a fixed set of rules but an ongoing human activity that must continually be thrashed out for particular circumstances and people. (P. Dombrowski)

4. According to the conventional wisdom, engineers eschew reading, writing, and speaking, but surveys have shown that these activities are not easily avoided in the practice of the profession. (Henry Petroski)
5. The preparation of reports, like that of estimates, is one of the most important and responsible classes of work that an engineer is called upon to perform. (John Waddell)

Faulty punctuation from EXE 4 has been identified by yellow highlights and corrected, as follows:

1. From the beginning we realized we had two problems, we had to identify and overcome the technological barriers to using the Web, and we had to address barriers to understanding. (Chuck Leturneau)

CORRECTED:

From the beginning, we realized we had two problems; we had to identify and overcome the technological barriers to using the Web, and we had to address barriers to understanding. (Chuck Leturneau)

From the beginning, we realized we had two problems: we had to identify and overcome the technological barriers to using the Web, and we had to address barriers to understanding. (Chuck Leturneau)

2. Digital technology, in theory, has the ability to emancipate individuals from tedious minutiae; we no longer need to memorize vast amounts of quotidian information. Because a digital version is always retrievable. (John Lorinc)

CORRECTED:

Digital technology, in theory, has the ability to emancipate individuals from tedious minutiae; we no longer need to memorize vast amounts of quotidian information, because a digital version is always retrievable. (John Lorinc)

Digital technology, in theory, has the ability to emancipate individuals from tedious minutiae; we no longer need to memorize vast amounts of quotidian information, because a digital version is always retrievable. (John Lorinc)

3. By using PowerPoint to report technical work, presenters quickly damage their credibility. (Edward Tufte)

CORRECTED:

By using PowerPoint to report technical work, presenters quickly damage their credibility. (Edward Tufte)

4. For nearly all scientific and engineering communication, instead of PowerPoint, the reporting software should be a word processing program capable of capturing, publishing, and editing text, tables, data, graphics, images, and scientific notation. (Edward Tufte) [Correct as is]
5. Since 1946, when Orwell published his essay, “Politics and the English Language,” there have been profound changes in the way human beings speak, write, and use knowledge. (B. Fawcett)

CORRECTED:

Since 1946, when Orwell published his essay, “Politics and the English Language,” there have been profound changes in the way human beings speak, write, and use knowledge. (B. Fawcett)

The Oxford Comma—the addition of a final comma in a series, as above—is generally preferred in technical writing as providing added precision.