Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Nonessential Phrases: Participial

A participial phrase within a sentence may or may not require commas. It depends on whether the participial phrase is **essential (restrictive)** or **nonessential (nonrestrictive)**.

Look at the difference between these two sentences

Ex: The football players **wearing pink jerseys for Breast Cancer Awareness Night** stood out in the crowd.

Ex: The football players, **wearing pink jerseys for Breast Cancer Awareness Night**, stood out in the crowd.

Sentence #1: Here the purpose of the participial phrase is to define **which** football players stood out in the crowd.

Ex: The football players **wearing pink jerseys for Breast Cancer Awareness Night** stood out in the crowd.

We can imagine that some of the players are more noticeable than others because they are wearing pink jerseys; the other players are wearing their normal jerseys. The participial phrase defines or restricts which players the sentence is referencing.

Sentence #2: Here the purpose of the participial phrase is to comment on the players – it does **not** define them.

Ex: The football players, **wearing pink jerseys for Breast Cancer Awareness Night,** stood out in the crowd.

We can imagine that a group of pink jersey players are standing in a crowd of people, maybe signing autographs or something. But the point is, those players stand out with or without their pink jerseys. The participial phrase does **not** tell **which** football players stood out in the crowd; they **all** did. The phrase is not essential to defining the players.

Sentence #1 uses a **restrictive** participial phrase. Sentence #2 uses a **nonrestrictive** participial phrase.

1. What is the difference between these two sentences?

1. The marching band members wearing rain gear stayed dry.
2. The marching band members, wearing rain gear, stayed dry.

2. What is the difference between these two sentences?

1. Mr. Marsh’s wife, worried about her husband’s cholesterol level, forbid donuts from being in the house.
2. Mr. Marsh’s wife worried about her husband’s cholesterol level forbid donuts from being in the house.

Read the following sentences, underline the nonrestrictive participial phrases, and then add commas if necessary.

3. None of us could identify the food being served by the cafeteria ladies.

4. The class clown making growls like Chewbacca or a yeti during the test was annoying to me.

5. Mr. Cooper smelling like a combination of a hobo and a senior citizen doused himself in cheap cologne before 2nd period.

6. Carissa’s obsessive boyfriend tracking her every move via cell phone is possessive and stalker-like.

7. A high school boy not interested in video games is a rarity. (Think about how to use “not”)

8. The bonfire and effigy of Penn Manor’s Comet Man created by some crafty members of the sewing club was the pinnacle of the pep rally before the big game.

9. The timid freshman driven mad by the amount of homework in his first semester of high school collapsed under the weight of his oversized backpack.

10. The pathetic cashier working at the Dippin’ Dots kiosk at Park City used to be my English teacher but then he got fired causing quite a rumor in school. (Look for two!)

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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Sentence #1 uses a **restrictive** participial phrase. Sentence #2 uses a **nonrestrictive** participial phrase.

1. What is the difference between these two sentences?

1. The marching band members wearing rain gear stayed dry. implies only some stayed dry
2. The marching band members, wearing rain gear, stayed dry. implies all stayed dry

2. What is the difference between these two sentences?

1. Mr. Marsh’s wife, worried about her husband’s cholesterol level, forbid donuts from being in the house. implies Mr. Marsh has one wife
2. Mr. Marsh’s wife worried about her husband’s cholesterol level forbid donuts from being in the house. implies Mr. Marsh has more than one wife

Read the following sentences, underline the nonrestrictive participial phrases, and then add commas if necessary.

3. None of us could identify the food being served by the cafeteria ladies.

No Comma

4. The class clown, making growls like Chewbacca or a yeti during the test, was annoying to me.

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7. A high school boy not interested in video games is a rarity. (Think about how to use “not”)

No Comma

8. The bonfire and effigy of Penn Manor’s Comet Man, created by some crafty members of the sewing club, was the pinnacle of the pep rally before the big game.

9. The timid freshman driven mad by the amount of homework in his first semester of high school collapsed under the weight of his oversized backpack.

No Comma implies there are multiple timid freshmen

10. The pathetic cashier working at the Dippin’ Dots kiosk at Park City used to be my English teacher but then he got fired causing quite a rumor in school. (Look for two!)

No Comma implies there are multiple pathetic cashiers