

THE BEST ACT PREP COURSE EVER

COMMAS

ACT English: Problem Set

Correct the comma error(s) in the following sentences or write “no error.”

1. John has been practicing law, since 2005 when he first passed the Bar in Illinois and was hired at a legal firm in Chicago.
2. Joline studied abroad in Korea, where she took an intensive, Korean, course and interned at a local marketing firm.
3. The glossy brochures depicted products, and services that were offered at the location.
4. Yesterday, the two authors faced writer’s block for the first time in three months. Nonetheless, they continued with absolute willpower with similarly, a steadfast cheerfulness and optimism that inspired the rest of the novel.
5. Although the boy and his father were both quite tall for their respective ages and enjoyed playing basketball they were by no means particularly gifted at the sport.
6. The Berlin Wall, built by the German Democratic Republic in 1961, was constructed for several reasons, one of which was to prevent emigration and defection from East Germany.
7. Both the tapestries, and the stained glass contributed to the castle’s regal aesthetic.
8. After winning a major battle during the War of 1812 major general, Andrew Jackson, received national recognition for the victory even though the battle had actually taken place after the peace treaty was signed.
9. Paul understood that if let go once his contract ended, he, as an independent consultant, might face indefinite unemployment while he looked for another job.
10. When the company developed larger, faster monitors, it discontinued the original.
11. The civil rights group appealed the court’s decision, requesting that greater pains be taken, to rectify the situation.
12. To the casual observer a tide pool, might look silent and devoid of life.
13. As a motivational speaker, the woman mentions several things that successful people strive for such as, a good, work ethic and a cheerful attitude.
14. As the architect perused the client’s requests for a mid-century modern design steel, fiberglass, and concrete furnishings quickly came to mind.
15. The interviewer asked Amy, if she had any particular interests or hobbies relevant to the position she was applying for.

Choose the correct answer from the following options.

1. While diabetes, also known as diabetes mellitus is very common, many people cannot afford the medication or dismiss the symptoms as aging side effects.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. diabetes also known as diabetes mellitus, is very common,
 C. diabetes, also known as diabetes mellitus, is very common,
 D. diabetes, also known as diabetes mellitus, is very common
2. As the precipitate formed bubbles rose to the surface.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. precipitate formed, bubbles
 C. precipitate, formed bubbles
 D. precipitate formed bubbles,
3. I was a foolish student wasting time with video games.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. student, wasting time,
 C. student wasting time,
 D. student: wasting time
4. Empress Elisabeth is a historical figure who, according to historians, was instrumental in uniting Austria and Hungary as a dual monarchy.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. who: according to historians,
 C. who, according to historians
 D. who according to historians,
5. Therefore, although a small amount of air still remains: products can be shipped long distances without fear of spoiling.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. remains products
 C. remains, products
 D. remains products,
6. The NAACP used boycotts, sit-ins, and more to protest the denial of African Americans, and other people of color their rights as citizens, namely just treatment.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. denial, of African Americans,
 C. denial, of African Americans
 D. denial of African Americans
7. The comet, is often likened to a dirty snowball, is an icy body in space that releases dust and gas.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. comet is often likened to a dirty snowball, and
 C. comet, often likened to a dirty snowball,
 D. comet, often likened to a dirty snowball, and
8. The guide led the group through an entryway mess of hats and coats.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. group through an entryway;
 C. group, through an entryway,
 D. group through an entryway,
9. Oxen pulling wagons plod along dusty trails toward the West Coast.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. Oxen, pulling wagons,
 C. Oxen pulling wagons,
 D. Oxen, pulling wagons
10. Casting over 50 actors, both union and non-union, the play was one of the largest to be produced in at least a decade.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. actors, whom were
 C. actors, are from
 D. actors:
11. But her favorite she says is chemistry.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. But her favorite, she says
 C. But her favorite, she says,
 D. But her favorite she says,
12. It was almost evening when my sister, and I arrived at the talent show, an annual event that the neighborhood hosted in the summer.
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. sister and I arrived,
 C. sister, and I, arrived
 D. sister and I arrived

13. Jenna is so forgetful that she always leaves something at home, whether it's her house key wallet, or phone.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. key wallet or
- C. key, wallet or,
- D. key, wallet, or

14. In Madison County, Arkansas, a fallen tree due to a tornado that destroyed the roots crushed three cars.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. tree, due to
- C. tree due to,
- D. tree due, to

15. Goya's *Pinturas Negras*, a series of 14 paintings painted near the end of Goya's career, which depicted dark, haunting figures whose facial expressions were rich with emotion.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. career are
- C. career, depicted
- D. career,

ANSWER KEY

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5. Although the boy and his father were both quite tall for their respective ages and enjoyed playing basketball, they were by no means particularly gifted at the sport.
6. No Error
7. Both the tapestries and the stained glass contributed to the castle's regal aesthetic.
8. After winning a major battle during the War of 1812, major general Andrew Jackson received national recognition for the victory, even though the battle had actually taken place after the peace treaty was signed.
9. No Error
10. No Error
11. The civil rights group appealed the court's decision, requesting that greater pains be taken to rectify the situation.
12. To the casual observer, a tide pool might look silent and devoid of life.
13. As a motivational speaker, the woman mentions several things that successful people strive for, such as a good work ethic and a cheerful attitude.
14. As the architect perused the client's requests for a mid-century modern design, steel, fiberglass, and concrete furnishings quickly came to mind.
15. The interviewer asked Amy if she had any hobbies or activities that she liked to do during her free time.

ANSWER KEY

1. C 2. B 3. A 4. A 5. C 6. D 7. C 8. A 9. A 10. A 11. C 12. D 13. D
14. A 15. C

ANSWER EXPLANATIONS

1. C The comma needs to come after “mellitus” to set off the detail about its scientific name.
2. B The comma is needed after the dependent clause modifier that introduces why the bubbles rose to the surface.
3. A The phrase “wasting time” is used to describe the student appropriately without a comma.
4. A This sentence appropriately uses the comma to set off the detail about the historians.
5. C The comma is used after the dependent clause modifier that contradicts the next idea in the sentence.
6. D The comma is misplaced before the coordinating conjunction because only one group is listed, so the comma does not function to separate things in a series.
7. C Removing “is” enables clarity and allows the modifier to be properly set off by commas.
8. A The phrase “through an entryway” is a modifier after “group” and should not be set off by commas; the sentence uses commas appropriately as is.
9. A This sentence appropriately uses the subject-verb-object structure without commas.
10. A This sentence appropriately uses the comma before “both” to set off the beginning of the phrase and correspond to the comma at the end of the phrase.
11. C The commas are needed to set off the phrase “she says” because it is a detail about who commented about the favorite.
12. D The comma is misplaced and must be removed because in the sentence it reads that “and I arrived at the talent show” is set off as a separate detail. However, the phrase should read that “my sister and I arrived at the talent show.”
13. D The oxford comma is used to separate a series of three or more things.
14. A Commas are not needed to separate the detail about the tree’s fall. Moreover, the other options present incorrect ways of using commas to set off a modifying phrase.
15. C Commas are needed on either side of the phrase describing Pinturas Negras. “Which” can be removed to avoid a run on sentence, so “depicted” can come immediately after the comma to continue the thought before the modifying detail.