

Write on Course

20-20

SkillsBook

Grade 6



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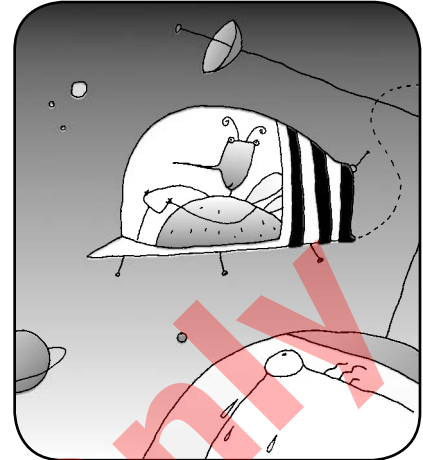
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Punctuating Dialogue 1

A conversation in writing is called *dialogue*. There are special rules for using quotation marks, commas, and end punctuation marks when you are punctuating dialogue. (See 491.1–491.3 and 492.11 in *Write on Course 20-20* for more information.)



Examples

- "I'm bored," said Clara. "Let's go shopping."
(A period comes after "Clara" because that's the end of a complete sentence.)
- "Oh yeah," replied Sue, "there's a great sale at the mall."
(A comma comes after "Sue" because what follows completes the sentence.)
- "Let's go now, Sue!" Clara yelled.
(The exclamation point is inside the quotation marks because the quotation is an exclamation.)

Directions

Punctuate the following examples of dialogue with quotation marks, commas, and end marks. The first sentence has been done for you.

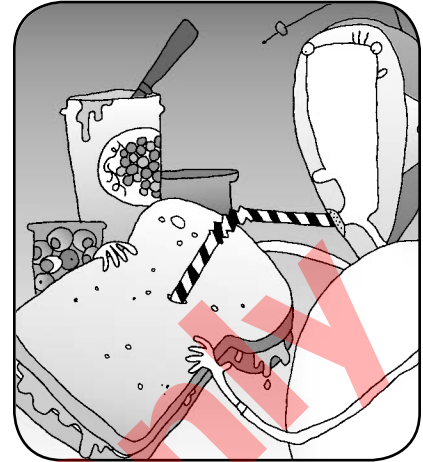
- 1 "Hey, Maria, there's a bee on your back," yelled Carlyle. Hold still
- 2 while I swish it away.
- 3 Everyone be quiet and take your seats said Mr. Beech.
- 4 But what about the bee said Maria. I could be stung.
- 5 Just sit still. It won't sting you if you stop jumping around.
- 6 advised Mr. Beech.
- 7 It's a known fact added Carlyle that bees only sting if you scare
- 8 them.
- 9 Real funny, Carlyle. Now just get it off me pleaded Maria.

Comma Practice 1

Commas are used to separate words, phrases, or clauses in sentences. Commas make writing easier to read. (See pages 482–485 in *Write on Course 20-20*.)

Examples

- After I ate my special sandwich, I was feeling a bit queasy.
(The comma after “sandwich” separates an adverb clause from the main sentence, or independent clause, that follows it.)
- I like grape jam, cream cheese, and green olives on a sandwich.
(The commas separate a series of words.)
- My brother likes peanut-butter sandwiches, but I think they’re boring.
(The comma separates two independent clauses.)



Directions

Read the paragraph that follows and add commas where you think they are needed. Use the examples above as your guide.

1 I use a computer for producing final drafts but I can't actually
2 write on it. I turn it on listen to it boot up put my fingers on the
3 keyboard, and then . . . nothing. On the other hand writing on paper
4 makes me feel as if I can conquer the whole world. When I see the
5 ink on the page I know I'm making my mark. The words are like
6 clay in my hands and I can rework them until they're right. I may
7 change words two three or four times before I am satisfied. On the
8 computer screen words seem to be written in stone. They stare out at
9 me and I find it difficult to work with them.

Next Step Exchange your work with a classmate and check each other's work. If you have questions, refer to *Write on Course 20-20*.

Punctuation Review 1

Directions

Add missing commas and end punctuation to the following passage. Also add capital letters as necessary. The first sentence has been corrected for you. (See pages 479.1–495.4 in *Write on Course 20-20*.)

1 Did you know that Ellis Island was the chief immigration station
2 for the United States between 1892 and 1954? in fact nearly 15000000
3 people entered the United States through Ellis Island, in the early
4 years the majority of the immigrants came from European countries,
5 such as Great Britain, Ireland Italy Russia and Germany.

6 Ellis Island nicknamed “Heartbreak Island” stood between the
7 immigrants and the new country in a huge inspection room with iron
8 dividers the newcomers were examined by two doctors if the first
9 doctor spotted an obvious physical mental or social problem he put a
10 chalk mark on the person’s right shoulder the second doctor looked for
11 diseases and infections have you ever heard of trachoma it is a serious
12 eye disease the second doctor would look for

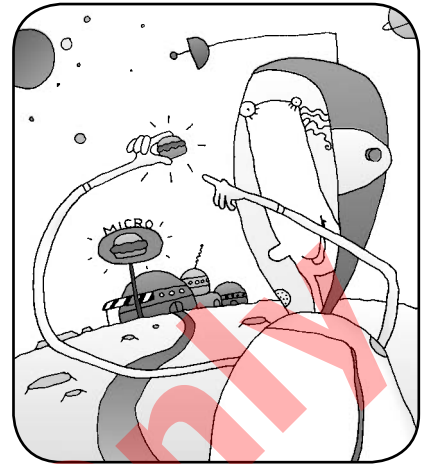
13 Each immigrant was then questioned every family worried that a
14 family member would be rejected and he or she would have to return
15 home what a horrible thing to have happen most immigrants passed
16 through Ellis Island in about a day but some people had to wait as
17 long as three days

18 California has the most new immigrants with New York, Florida,
19 Texas, New Jersey and Illinois following behind Europe is no longer
20 the largest source of immigrants the top six countries for U.S.
21 immigrants in 2014 were Mexico India China the Philippines El
22 Salvador and Vietnam they represented about half of the total
23 immigrants in that year

Next Step Some people know a little about their family history, and some people know a lot—but everyone knows something. Write a paragraph that tells something interesting about your family history.

Using the Right Word 1

Many writing errors are commonly made when one word is confused with another. Whenever you review your writing, pay close attention to the pairs or sets of words that often confuse you. Make sure to refer to “Using the Right Word” in the “Proofreader’s Guide” whenever you have a usage question. (See 511.1–525.7 in *Write on Course 20-20* for information on words in this exercise.)



Examples

- I will **accept** your apology.
- Everyone **except** Todd is tired.
- I sat **between** Regie and Al.
- We sat **among** many others.
- A **number** of us had pancakes.
- What **amount** of syrup did we use?
- I can't **bear** another lecture.
- I want **bare** feet and blue skies.
- Lack of sleep does **affect** me.
- It has a strong **effect** on my schoolwork.
- Devon is **already** in eighth grade.
- He is **all ready** for high school.
- An **ant** crawled onto the picnic basket.
- Roger's **aunt** is his dad's sister.
- I walked **by** the restaurant.
- I decided to **buy** a bite-sized burger.

Directions

Read the following story. If an underlined word is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct form above it. If the underlined word is correct, leave it alone. The first error has been corrected for you.

- 1 My ^{aunt}~~ant~~ asked me, “Shane, would you go to the store to buy some milk?”
- 2 I said, “I think we all ready have some milk.”
- 3 She said, “I need more than the amount we have for this recipe.”
- 4 She gave me some money, and I left the house. The sun was shining
- 5 so brightly it was hard to bear. As I crossed a busy street, my hat blew off,
- 6 leaving my head bear. I wanted to chase after my hat, accept there were cars
- 7 coming from both directions. I returned to the sidewalk and waited for the
- 8 traffic to clear.

8 At that moment, something happened that had a big affect on me. From
 9 among two cars, a short-haired, black and white puppy darted out into the
 10 road. I knew I had to do something. I was all ready to run after the dog when
 11 the sound of screeching tires broke through the normal traffic noises.

12 My heart was all ready pounding. I quickly scanned the scene, looking
 13 among all the cars that had stopped. Then I saw the puppy—on the street
 14 buy two of the motionless cars. I ran to it and saw that it was crouching
 15 down, scared of all the commotion. What a relief! I scooped up the puppy. The
 16 amount of people who had come to see what happened began to clap.

17 Then an older man ran up to me. “Oh, thank you, thank you,” he said as
 18 he took the pup from me. He was clearly out of breath from running after the
 19 dog, which had slipped out of its collar. He put a collar and leash back
 20 on the dog, which happily sniffed some ants crawling between all the cracks
 21 in the pavement.

22 “Please except this,” he said as he reached into his pocket. “I am very
 23 grateful.” He handed me a five-dollar bill. I tried to refuse, but he insisted.

24 When I returned home with the milk, I told Ant Irene about the
 25 adventure. She asked, “Does this effect your desire to get your own puppy?”
 26 “No way,” I replied. “But I *do* see how important a leash is!”

Next Step Use the following pairs or sets of words correctly in sentences (use one set of words per sentence): *fewer, less; altogether, all together; and it's, its*. Share your results.

Example:

“Visiting the capitol building is a capital idea,” said Grandpa.

(The words “capitol” and “capital” are used correctly in this sentence.)