

TEN-MINUTE GRAMMAR

COMMA RULES: Lesson Two – Teacher’s Guide

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to *Ten-Minute Grammar*! The goal of these units is to help students build a solid understanding of grade-level grammar concepts during the first ten minutes of the class period each day. Each unit goes through a progression in which new grammatical concepts are introduced (by discovery, as much as possible), built upon, and then practiced and reviewed. In addition, the concepts in each consecutive unit build on one another logically—it might seem silly to spend time reviewing nouns and verbs with 8th graders, but it’s necessary if they’re going to understand things like gerunds and infinitives or specific types of verb phrases.

This unit includes a week and a half of daily bell-ringer activities, a quiz, and three practice worksheets.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE:

- Start the Day One bell ringer on a Monday.
- The “Practice” worksheets can be done as a class any time during the week (or they can be skipped if you feel your students don’t need it.)
- The quiz should be taken on the **SECOND FRIDAY**, as this is a **TWO-WEEK UNIT**.
 - **Differentiation:** The “Alternate Quiz” included in the packet is a slightly modified quiz geared toward students with IEPs that call for such modifications.
- After the quiz, a student who clearly failed to grasp one or more of the week’s concepts should be assigned the “Extra Practice” worksheet (an answer key is included on the worksheet so students can check their work as they go.) After completing the worksheet, the student can retake the unit quiz for an improved grade.
- Starting a unit mid-week isn’t a problem at all—don’t feel like you **MUST** start on a Monday. But make sure you dedicate **TWO FULL WEEKS** to this unit!

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students should understand that...
 - a. A comma should be used to set off **introductory words or phrases**, including **transitions**, that come before the beginning of the main independent clause.
 - b. **A word or phrase that interrupts** an independent clause should have commas before it and after it.
 - c. An **“appositive phrase”** is a specific type of interruption that restates or renames a noun—it should have commas before and after it like all interruptions.
 - d. A **“non-restrictive” subordinate clause**, which does not change or limit the meaning of a sentence, should have commas before and after it. “Which” and “who” often begin non-restrictive clauses, but “that” usually begins a clause that changes the meaning of the sentence.
 - e. In a **compound sentence**, when you combine two independent clauses with a conjunction like “and,” “but,” or “or,” you should put a comma before the conjunction and never after.

- f. In a **complex sentence**, if the sentence begins with a subordinate clause, you should put a comma at the end of the subordinate clause before the beginning of the independent clause.
2. Students should be able to...
 - a. Correct sentences and passages that contain comma-use errors with introductory words or phrases, interruptions, appositive phrases, non-restrictive clauses, compound sentences, and complex sentences.
 - b. Write sentences that correctly use commas with introductory words or phrases, interruptions, appositive phrases, non-restrictive clauses, compound sentences, and complex sentences.

KEYS TO THE UNIT:

First of all, it is VERY important to note that this is a TWO-WEEK UNIT, unlike most other Ten-Minute Grammar units, which are meant to last one week to a week and a half. Because the list of objectives this time is longer than usual, it is critical that you spend the full two weeks in class, or students will end up taking a quiz before they've been introduced to some of the rules and concepts.

This is the second of two "Comma Rules" unit. The previous unit covered commas with dates, locations, lists, equal adjectives, and direct addresses. Also, the comma rules for compound and complex sentences were covered more in-depth in two "Sentence Types" units previously in the Ten-Minute Grammar progression. It's always tempting, in a connected unit like this, to spend too much time focusing on concepts that are not listed in the objectives. So the key with this unit is to limit the scope and focus just on the skills explicitly taught here.

DAILY ROUTINE:

Have the day's bell-ringer activity up on a projector when the students come to class **each day**. I have my students do the assignment on quarter-sheets of paper (I cut them up and have a stack available each day). Days Four and Six in this unit require copyediting with proofreading marks; since it takes too long for students to copy the incorrect sentences and *then* edit them, a page of quarter-size student answer sheets are provided for those days (see the pages after the last bell ringer.)

Students should **spend the first five minutes working silently** (use that time to take roll and then circulate around the room to keep kids on task.) After the five minutes of work time, **spend the next five minutes going over the answers**. Use the correction session each day to explain new concepts, clarify ideas, and correct misconceptions. For each question, I like to have my students turn to the person next to them and share their answer; then I ask a student to volunteer an answer. If a student answers incorrectly, find someone else who can give the correct answer. Help the class understand the concept a little better and then ask the first student a question like, "Explain why your first answer was wrong." I've never had a student feel offended by this—if anything, it gives kids a chance to redeem themselves after what might have been an embarrassing moment of being wrong in front of everyone.

If you use an overhead projector, a Smart Board, or project onto a white marker board, you can **choose a student each day** to come to the front and write answers or corrections as other students volunteer them.

How you **grade** the daily bell-ringer questions is up to you. I used to give my students full credit as long as they attempted each question and then participated in the answer session. But this year, I actually stopped grading the daily practice altogether—so students are graded solely on the unit quiz (and sometimes the practice worksheet.) This has worked great. The only issue with doing it like this is

that you have to make sure you don't let kids get away with not doing the bell-ringer—I sometimes hold them during lunch if they were slacking off and didn't do it.

The **Wordplay** at the end of each day's questions can be a way to earn extra credit if you choose. As incentive to work quickly, I tell my students they can't begin on the Wordplay until they're finished with the other questions, and I always offer a piece of candy to the first student to get the answer right or the student with the best answer or most answers. (You'd be surprised what junior-high students will do for a Starburst or a Jolly Rancher!)

LITERATURE:

This unit contains example selections from the novel *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner.

Identify the comma errors in each of the following sentences (where do commas need to be added?):

1. All monkey children know about Monkey Clause, an overweight primate who brings gifts to good little monkeys on a certain holiday.
2. If a little monkey has been good, Monkey Clause brings him bananas.
3. Bad little monkeys, however, only get dried ape droppings.
4. That might seem a little harsh, but it helps little monkeys learn to obey their monkey parents.
5. Most of the time, just mentioning “Monkey Clause” is enough to get naughty little monkeys to quit their naughty monkey business.

Read the following example sentences from The Maze Runner by James Dashner. Find the missing commas in each sentence:

6. One by one, boys were stepping out of the crowd and walking over to the long pole.
7. “Because no one who’d been stung and *didn’t* make it back by sunset has ever survived, we just assume that was the point of no return.”

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **EIGHT BALL:** Create as many words as you can using three or more of the letters below (at least one eight-letter word is possible):

S O G D M N I K

Kingdoms

In your own words, write a comma rule that explains the following corrections (Your rule could start with “You should use a comma / commas to ...”):

1. The truth, in fact, is even scarier than the stories. You should use commas before and after an interruption.
2. My mom is an animal rights activist, but my dad is an avid deer hunter. You should use a comma before the conjunction when you join two independent clauses.
3. I asked Lizzie Jenkins, the girl in my physics class, to go to the dance with me. You should put commas around a phrase (an appositive phrase) that restates who or what a noun is as long as it could be deleted without affecting the sentence.
4. Jack and Jill fell down Granite Hill, which is dotted with deadly rocks. You should use a comma before (and after) a subordinate clause that could be left out without changing the sentence (a non-restrictive clause).

An introductory word or phrase that comes before the beginning of an independent clause should have a comma after it. That includes transitions like “First of all,” “In conclusion,” or “Also.”

Decide where each of the following sentences needs **ONE** added comma:

5. To begin with we need to find an old spare tire.
6. Also don't forget to bring twenty feet of rope.
7. In the end we'll have a very nice tire swing.
8. In fact it might very well be the coolest tire swing in history!

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **RHYME THYME:** Time to think like a rapper. How many rhymes can you come up with for the following word?

DARK

In a compound sentence, when you combine two independent clauses with a conjunction like “and,” “but,” or “or,” you should put a comma before the conjunction and never after.

In each of the following sentences, find **ONE** comma that needs to be added **OR** deleted:

1. I have four dollars, and my friend has six more.
2. Dogs usually don't mind getting wet, but cats absolutely hate it.
3. Jeff and Kate are on the same soccer team, so they hang out a lot.
4. Karen, clean your room and the kitchen, or you will be grounded!

In a complex sentence, if the sentence begins with a subordinate clause, you should put a comma at the end of the subordinate clause before the beginning of the independent clause.

In each of the following sentences, find **ONE** comma that needs to be added **OR** deleted:

5. Because she was tired, Danielle decided not to go to the party.
6. Every time I eat pasta, I end up breaking out in a rash, when I wake up.
7. If my team wins this game, we will be ranked number one!

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **CATALOG CREATOR:** The suffix “-ship” means “state of being.” How many words can you list that contain this suffix?

Read the following excerpts from The Maze Runner by James Dashner. Then answer the questions afterward:

(a) For the next few hours he and Minho scoured the ground, felt along the walls, and climbed up the ivy in random spots. (b) They found nothing, and Thomas grew more and more discouraged.

1. Where does sentence (a) need an extra comma? *After “hours”*
2. Why is there a comma after “nothing” in sentence (b)? *Because it is joining two independent clauses in a compound sentence*

(c) “With open Doors and no sunset there’s no point in coming back here, anyway. (d) It’s time to stay out there and see if anything opens up when the walls move.”

1. Where does sentence (c) need an extra comma? *After “sunset”*
2. Does sentence (d) need a comma after “there”? Why? *No, This isn’t a compound sentence with two independent clauses; it’s a simple sentence with a compound predicate, so you don’t need a comma before the “and”*

Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt:

the south wall eventually moved closing for the night he leaned forward
 until it stopped. Minutes later his back once again comfortably pressed
 against thick layers of ivy he fell asleep

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **COMBINATOR:** The vowel combination “**ee**” almost always sounds like the hard “E” in “feet.” List as many words as you can that contain “ee.”

A word or phrase that interrupts or comes in the middle of an independent clause should have commas before and after it.

Decide where each of the following sentences needs **TWO** added commas:

1. Those purple pants, however, don't look very stylish.
2. You and I, therefore, are no longer lab partners.
3. One obvious excuse, of course, would be to say your dog ate it.
4. The truth, in fact, is that you stole the cookies from me.

An “appositive phrase” is a specific type of interruption that restates or renames a noun; it should have commas before and after it.

Decide where each of the following sentences needs **ONE** or **TWO** added commas:

5. I just finished reading *The Death Cure*, the third book in the *Maze Runner* series.
6. My friend Jake, the one with the pet parrot, gave me his old iPod.
7. Last week, I met Tom Cruise, the actor from *Mission Impossible*.
8. David's uncle climbed K2, the world's second highest peak, last year.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

➤ **DESCRAMBLER:** Try to sort out the five scrambled words below:

KTNA LIWHE LAECRL NSIGRPA MTINOED

Tank While Recall Spring Motioned

A “non-restrictive” subordinate clause does not change or limit the meaning of a sentence and should have commas before and after it. To find out if a “that,” “which,” or “who” clause is non-restrictive, just ask yourself if you could cut it out without changing the meaning of the sentence. If the clause **NEEDS** to be there, **DON'T** put commas around it.

Decide whether the bold subordinate clause needs commas before and after it (YES or NO):

1. I need to check out a book **that talks about the Great Depression.**
NO
2. The evil villain wants to steal the moon **which is kind of ridiculous.**
YES
3. Steve Jobs **who died in 2011** was a brilliant man. YES
4. They finally caught the guy **who broke into our house last month.**
NO

During this unit, you have learned several comma rules. Create your own example sentence for each of the following rules: ANSWERS WILL VARY.

5. Put **commas** around an interrupting word or phrase.
6. Put a **comma** after an introductory word or phrase.
7. Combine two independent clauses with a **comma** and a conjunction.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **EIGHT BALL:** Create as many words as you can using three or more of the letters below (at least one eight-letter word is possible):

T S T R F E H A

Farthest

In each of the following sentences, decide where a comma needs to be added OR deleted:

1. The aliens do not however have the power to read our minds.
2. First of all I'm allergic to peanuts.
3. If she comes to the party I'm going home because I can't stand her.
4. The ninja that killed my father has returned.
5. Kris and James are going to be late so we'll have to start without them.
6. Anderson Cooper who works for CNN, reports on a variety of stories.

Read the following example sentences from The Maze Runner by James Dashner. Find the missing commas in each sentence:

7. Frozen with fear Thomas watched as one of the Griever's long arms reached for the lifeless body.
8. The dark skin of his face which had been oddly pale just a minute earlier had turned purple.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **FOUR-LETTER WORDS:** Take the four-letter word below and change one letter to make a new four-letter word (keep it clean!) Then take *that* word and change one letter to make a new word. Then take *that* word and... You get the picture.

PAGE

Read the following excerpts from The Maze Runner by James Dashner. Then answer the questions afterward:

(a) Thomas had an overwhelming feeling that all of these changes were a spur, a catalyst for the endgame. (b) “Because now we *have* to solve it. (c) We’ll be forced to. (d) We can’t live that way anymore day to day thinking that what matters most is getting back to the Glade before the Doors close.”

1. Why is there a comma after the word “spur” in sentence (a)? *Because “a catalyst for the endgame” is an appositive phrase restating what the “spur” is*
2. Sentence (d) needs two commas; where should they go? *After “anymore” and after “day to day”*
3. Is sentence (b) an independent clause or a subordinate clause? *Subordinate clause, which means it’s not a full sentence, but in dialogue we often see incomplete sentences*
4. What is the subordinate clause in sentence (a), and does it need commas around it? *“that all of these changes were a spur” – no, it doesn’t need commas*

Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt:

He wanted to share his idea [↕] but he decided against it. Instead [↕] he just nodded and headed [↕] and for the stairs. All the same [↕] Thomas ~~know~~ ^{now} had a plan. As bad as it was [↕] he had a plan. They needed *memories*.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **FIXER-ROOTER:** How many words can you think of that have the same prefix, suffix, or root as the multisyllabic word below?

RESONANCE RE / SON / ANCE

(the quality of being able to reinforce sound by sympathetic vibrations)

In each of the following sentences, decide where a comma needs to be added OR deleted:

1. Whenever Anna calls, we end up talking on the phone all night.
2. Candy, pop, and chips are delicious, but they're not very healthy.
3. I found out that Dustin was the one, who stole my shoes.
4. The number of people who like Twinkies, according to a recent study, has gone down in the last two years.
5. Of course, we won't know the truth, until we read that file.

During this unit, you have learned several comma rules. Create your own example sentence for each of the following rules: **ANSWERS WILL VARY.**

6. Put commas around an appositive phrase, a phrase that restates or renames a noun.
7. If a sentence starts with a subordinate clause, put a comma at the end of the subordinate clause.
8. A clause that starts with "which" or "who" should have commas around it as long as it doesn't change or limit the meaning of the sentence.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **ANAGRAM:** Rearrange the letters in the nonsense phrase below to create new words that actually make sense.

GLANCED A CASUAL BLUR

(Hint: equations)

Algebra and Calculus

REVIEW FOR TODAY'S QUIZ:

1. What is an “appositive phrase”? A phrase that restates who or what a noun is and could be deleted without affecting the sentence
2. What is a “non-restrictive” subordinate clause? A clause, usually starting with “which” or “who,” that does not limit the meaning of the sentence, so it could be deleted without affecting the sentence
3. What are some examples of words or phrases that interrupt independent clauses and need commas around them? However, in fact, therefore, of course, in other words, on the other hand
4. What are some examples of introductory words or phrases that need commas after them? First of all, Finally, Also, Therefore, However, Most importantly,
5. Where do you need a comma in a compound sentence? After the end of the first independent clause and before the coordinating conjunction
6. Where do you need a comma in a complex sentence that starts with a subordinating conjunction like “If” or “Because”? At the end of the subordinate clause and before the beginning of the independent clause
7. Where should commas be added or deleted in the following sentences:
 - a. The truth of course is that I don't have any shoes that fit me.
 - b. My grandma is a republican, but my grandpa is a democrat.
 - c. As soon as I save up a few dollars I want to go see the new Pixar movie which I've been wanting to see for weeks.
 - d. Potatoes and gravy go together well, and my mom makes them all the time.
 - e. I told Mike Huntington, the boy who has been picking on me for months, to leave me alone.

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An introductory word or phrase that comes before the beginning of an independent clause should have a comma after it. That includes transitions like “First of all,” “In conclusion,” or “Also.”

Do the example sentences follow correct comma rules (answer YES or NO)?

1. NO To begin with it annoys me when you call me “Tiger.”
2. YES Most importantly, I should be the class president because I’m cool.

In each sentence, add commas where they are needed:

3. In addition, cats shed on carpets and ruin hardwood floors.
4. In conclusion, iPads could be very useful in a school classroom.

Now write your own example sentence that contains an introductory word or phrase:

A word or phrase that interrupts or comes in the middle of an independent clause should have commas before and after it. Common interruptions include “however,” “therefore,” and “in fact.”

Do the example sentences follow correct comma rules (answer YES or NO)?

5. YES My great grandma is, of course, too old to go skiing now, but she still loves the snow.
6. NO I on the other hand can’t stand winter.

In each sentence, add commas where they are needed:

7. Vegetables are, according to my mother, the most important part of the meal.
8. This man, therefore, could not possibly have killed his boss with a broken piece of glass.

Now write your own example sentence that contains an interruption:

An “appositive phrase” is a specific type of interruption that restates or renames a noun—it should have commas before and after it.

Do the example sentences follow correct comma rules (answer YES or NO)?

9. NO Carrie, my girlfriend’s older sister doesn’t like me at all.

10. YES I’m a huge fan of Suzanne Collins, the author that wrote *The Hunger Games*.

In each sentence, add commas where they are needed:

11. Yesterday, I got in trouble in art class the only class I have with my girlfriend for talking too much.

12. My favorite *Sesame Street* character is Elmo the little red puppet with the cute laugh.

Now write your own example sentence that contains an appositive phrase:

Add the necessary commas to the paragraph below (there are 7 missing commas in all):

My sister is a huge fan of Johnny Depp the actor who plays Captain Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean*. She has of course seen almost every one of his movies. Her favorite Depp movie is *Edward Scissor Hands* a strange movie about a man with scissors for hands. In the end she just likes the actor because she thinks he’s hot. I on the other hand like him because he’s a good actor.

Add the necessary commas to the paragraph below (there are 8 missing commas in all):

A few years ago my older brother voted for the first time. He decided to vote for Barack Obama the democratic candidate. His girlfriend however voted for the republican John McCain. At first my brother and his girlfriend fought about the political differences. In the end of course they realized that this was a stupid thing to be mad at each other about.

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In a compound sentence, when you combine two independent clauses with a conjunction like “and,” “but,” or “so,” you should put a comma before the conjunction and never after.

Do the example sentences follow correct comma rules (answer YES or NO)?

1. NO I am terrified of insects but my little sister loves them.
2. YES The bridge to the other side of town was being repaired, so the trucks took a different route.

In each sentence, add commas where they are needed:

3. I love the way chocolate ice cream tastes but it always makes me sick.
4. Dinosaurs are very interesting and the museum is the best place to learn about them.

Now write your own example sentence that contains a comma and a conjunction:

In a complex sentence, if the sentence begins with a subordinate clause, you should put a comma at the end of the subordinate clause before the beginning of the independent clause.

Do the example sentences follow correct comma rules (answer YES or NO)?

5. YES When my family goes on vacation, we usually go to a beach because we love snorkeling.
6. NO If you will buy my lunch today I will buy your lunch, as soon as I remember my money.

In each sentence, add commas where they are needed:

7. As the other ballerinas started to dance Dori started to feel very nervous because she wasn't ready.
8. Because I broke my leg last summer my parents won't let me try out for the basketball team.

Now write your own example sentence that starts with a subordinate clause:

A “non-restrictive” subordinate clause, which does not change or limit the meaning of a sentence, should have commas before and after it. “Which” and “who” often begin non-restrictive clauses, but “that” usually begins a clause that changes the meaning of the sentence.

Do the example sentences follow correct comma rules (answer YES or NO)?

9. YES My little brother watches *Sid the Science Kid*, which is very educational.
10. NO But I prefer TV shows, that are made for teenagers or adults.

In each sentence, add commas where they are needed:

11. The police still haven't caught the person who mugged me last month, which really bugs me.
12. My favorite author is J.K. Rowling, who wrote the *Harry Potter* books.

Now write your own example sentence that contains a non-restrictive subordinate clause:

Add the necessary commas to the paragraph below (there are 7 missing commas in all):

Whenever my dad drives me to school, I always end up being tardy for first hour, and then I have to serve a tardy detention after school. It's not really his fault because he has to drop my sister off first, which is why we're late. My sister, who takes forever to do anything, can never get out the door when she's supposed to. She always says she's trying to hurry, but then she stares at herself in the mirror for ten minutes. If she doesn't learn to hurry up a little, I'm going to start walking to school.

Delete the incorrect commas to the paragraph below (there are 5 incorrect commas in all):

When I grow up, I want to be an author, because I love writing. I like books, and movies equally, so I would like to be a novelist, and a screenwriter. I'd like to write stories, that make people laugh, cry, and jump out of their seats. This career goal might be difficult because there are very few writers, who write both novels and scripts; but I'm going to be one of them!

QUIZ ANSWER KEY

Which answer gives the best way to correct the sentence?

1. Most importantly if you knew me at all, you would know that I don't like fish.

A. Delete the comma after "all"

B. Add a comma after "importantly"

C. NO CHANGE

2. My mother, of course, already knows that I would never date a person who doesn't respect me.

A. Delete the comma after "course"

B. Add a comma before "that"

C. NO CHANGE

3. Derrick, the quarterback on my football team doesn't like to share the ball, so he almost always just runs it himself.

A. Delete the comma after "ball"

B. Add a comma after "team"

C. NO CHANGE

Add one comma in each sentence:

4. The truth [↵] in fact, is even worse than we thought.

5. My friend is a Yankees fan [↵] but I like the Red Sox.

6. I asked Mike Perkins, the boy from my English class [↵] to help me with my essay.

7. After Grandpa died [↵] the family gathered for a funeral.

8. The movie, which won several Oscars [↵] wasn't very good.

In each sentence, circle the comma that should be deleted:

9. As soon as possible, I need to find a book, that deals with World War II.

10. I, therefore, would be happy to stay home with you, if you don't want to go to the party.

11. Chocolate, and candy are tasty, but they're not healthy.

12. My sister snores, when she sleeps, which drives me nuts.

13. When, I get home from school each day, I make myself a huge Big Stack, a double-decker peanut-butter sandwich.

Write your own example sentences that follow correct comma rules and contain the following items:

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

14. An introductory word or phrase

15. An appositive phrase

16. A non-restrictive clause starting with "which"

17. Two independent clauses joined by "but"

18. A subordinate clause that starts with "If"

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Which answer gives the best way to correct the sentence?

- Most importantly if you knew me at all, you would know that I don't like fish.
A. Delete the comma after "all"
B. Add a comma after "importantly"
- My mother, of course, already knows that I would never date a person who doesn't respect me.
A. Delete the comma after "course"
B. NO CHANGE
- Derrick, the quarterback on my football team doesn't like to share the ball, so he almost always just runs it himself.
A. Add a comma after "team"
B. NO CHANGE

In each of the following sentences, you have two options for where a comma might be added, but only one of them is correct. Circle the correct comma addition:

- The truth in fact, is even worse than we thought. fact, is even worse than we thought.
- My friend is a Yankees fan but I like the Red Sox. fan but I like the Red Sox.
- I asked Mike Perkins, the boy from my English class to help me with my essay.
- After Grandpa died the family gathered for a funeral. the family gathered for a funeral.
- The movie, which won several Oscars wasn't very good. wasn't very good.

In each sentence, circle the ONE comma that should be deleted:

9. As soon as possible, I need to find a book, that deals with World War II.
10. I, therefore, would be happy to stay home with you, if you don't want to go to the party.
11. Chocolate, and candy are tasty, but they're not healthy.
12. My sister snores, when she sleeps, which drives me nuts.
13. When, I get home from school each day, I make myself a huge Big Stack, a double-decker peanut-butter sandwich.

Write your own example sentences that follow correct comma rules and contain the following items:

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

14. An introductory word or phrase (like "First of all" or "Most importantly")
15. An appositive phrase (that restates or renames a noun)
16. A non-restrictive clause starting with "which"
17. Two independent clauses joined by "but"
18. A subordinate clause that starts with "If"

NAME:

PERIOD:

As you review for the unit quiz, remember the five rules we've learned:

- Use commas after introductory words or phrases, including transitions
- Use commas before and after a word or phrase that interrupts an independent clause, including appositive phrases, which restate or rename a noun
- Use commas before and after a non-restrictive subordinate clause—a clause that starts with “which” or “who” that could be left out without changing the meaning of the sentence
- Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (and, but, so) to join two independent clauses
- Use a comma between a subordinate clause and an independent clause is the subordinate comes first

Which answer gives the best way to correct the sentence?

1. First of all if you want to come to the party, you need to wear something nice.
 - A. Delete the comma after “party”
 - B. Add a comma after “all”
 - C. NO CHANGE
2. Books and movies are similar in some ways of course, but books are almost always better.
 - A. Delete the comma after “course”
 - B. Add a comma after “ways”
 - C. Add a comma after “Books”
3. My dog, on the other hand, already knows that he is not allowed to come into the house.
 - A. Delete the comma after “hand”
 - B. Add a comma before “that”
 - C. NO CHANGE
4. Chrystal Jenkins, the student-body president doesn't like me very much, so she never lets me participate in pep assemblies.
 - A. Delete the comma after “much”
 - B. Add a comma after “president”
 - C. NO CHANGE

Add one comma in each sentence:

5. The second book is in fact, even better than the first one was.
6. I loved the *Percy Jackson* books but my best friend hated them.
7. I told Mr. Davis, my math teacher from last year that I got an A again this year.
8. After the school year ended my friends and I went on a road trip.
9. The restaurant, which the food critics all rave about wasn't very good.

In each sentence, circle the comma that should be deleted:

10. By tomorrow, I need to finish the essay, that Mrs. Hill assigned us.
11. You, however, should ignore Mike, if he tries to text you again.
12. Broccoli, and carrots are healthy, but not everyone likes to eat them.
13. My dog howls, whenever cars drive past, which drives me nuts.
14. After, the package arrives, I will start assembling the Get-Ripper 500, our new exercise machine.

FIRST PAGE ANSWERS: B, A, C, B

For each of the comma rules below, fill in the blanks of the incomplete sentence. Then write your own example sentence that follows the same structure and obeys correct comma rules:

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

15. *An introductory word or phrase*

First of all, _____ .

16. *An appositive phrase*

Max , my awesome pet dog, _____ .

17. *A non-restrictive clause starting with "which"*

_____, **which** _____ .

18. *Two independent clauses joined by "but"*

_____, **but** _____ .

19. *A subordinate clause that starts with "if"*

If _____ , **then** _____ .