

# PUTTING IT On Paper

## Punctuation

### DIRECTIONS

Each of the following sentences contains ONE punctuation error. Find the error and correct it.

1. My friend Sissy was quoted in an article called Teenagers in the 21st Century.
2. We need four more ingredients for cookies, butter, eggs, chocolate chips, and flour.
3. Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States has many museums and monuments.
4. "Miss Lynn do you know how many more days until the holiday break?" she asked.
5. Wayne fell asleep, while he was doing his trigonometry homework.
6. While Terrell prepared the test tubes for the experiment Stuart read the instructions.
7. The day couldn't have been darker, they had to drive with their headlights on.
8. The twins mother is an economics professor at the university.

### RECTIONS

following table determine whether the rule is always true or always false, or sometimes true. Check the appropriate box for each rule.

Rule	Always True	Always False	Sometimes True
Colons are used to introduce lists.			
Quotation marks are always placed around dialogue.			
Commas are sometimes used to connect two closely related sentences.			
An apostrophe and an "s" are added to the end of singular nouns to form possessives.			
Interrupters are offset with commas.			

Make a list of punctuation rules that give you problems so you can learn them.

# PUTTING IT On Paper

## Capitalization and Spelling

### DIRECTIONS

Each of the following sentences contains ONE error in either capitalization or spelling. Rewrite each sentence to correct the errors.

1. Sometimes i wonder what it would be like to be an astronaut and fly above the Earth.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. I'm not sure weather I prefer sunny days or cloudy days; they're both pleasant.

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3. Yesterday, I asked my Mom, "Can I go to Aunt Mimi's house over Spring vacation?"

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. One day I caught my niegbur Mrs. Finch spying on me through her curtains.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. My best friend loves to buy candyies at Mr. Pickle's Deli.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Remember the rules for determining whether a word is capitalized or not



9.6d

THE  
PERSUASIVE  
PAPER

STRATEGY 5  
**Combining Sentences**

When writers produce sentences like the ones below in a first draft, a reader might complain that the writers' sentences are too choppy.

*The girl turned out to be Leona. She was walking toward us.*

In order to make the writing style smooth and easier to read, good writers combine sentences.

1. *The girl who was walking toward us turned out to be Leona.*

2. *The girl, who turned out to be Leona, was walking toward us.*

Notice that the emphasis of each sentence changes depending on how you combine the ideas. In the first sentence, the writer emphasizes the girl's identity. (***The girl is Leona.***) In the second, the girl's actions are stressed. (***The girl was walking.***) Since the writer is the only one who knows what he or she wants to emphasize, always ask yourself the following when you write—Which of these two ideas is more important? Which is less important?

When you combine sentences, like the ones in the example above, the group of words that you move from one sentence into another is called a **relative clause**.

A relative clause is easy to recognize. It usually begins with ***who, which, or that***; it has a verb in it; and it is usually surrounded by commas. It is almost like a sentence within a sentence.

**Combine each of the following pairs of sentences by making the second one into a relative clause. Use *that, which, or who* to begin it. Put commas around the relative clause.**

1. Sonya rushed home to watch *At the Water's Edge*. It was her favorite show.

2. Today's episode featured Tory Danger. He is the show's hero.

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3. A mysterious woman lived in Centerville. Tory seemed to know her.

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4. The woman was extremely glamorous. She wore dark glasses, gold tight and a short black dance dress.

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5. Tory invited the woman to dinner at Club Eight. It is the most expensive restaurant in town.

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6. Dolly Harper saw them go in. She is Tory's regular girlfriend.

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7. Tory and Dolly will probably quarrel in the next episode. It will be shown on Monday.

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## Words Commonly Confused Worksheet

**Part 1:** For each of the following sentences, circle the word or words that best complete the sentence correctly.

1. I couldn't decide ( which / witch ) color shoes I wanted.
2. If a cat falls ( of / off ) the counter, it will land on its feet.
3. Make sure you do ( your / you're ) homework right after school.
4. I talked ( to / too / two ) my brother yesterday.
5. ( Are / Our ) you going to be on ( are / our ) baseball team?
6. He bought ( to / too / two ) speakers ( to / too / two ) complete his stereo system.
7. I saw ( their / there / they're ) mom sitting ( their / there / they're ).
8. I think ( their / there / they're ) in trouble!
9. New surgeries for blind people can restore ( their / there / they're ) sight.
10. The dog chewed on ( its / it's ) squeaky toy.
11. My neighbor dressed as a ( which / witch ) for Halloween.
12. She couldn't remember ( were / where ) she had put her purse.
13. I would rather be poor and happy ( than / then ) rich and sad.
14. Do you think ( its / it's ) going to rain?
15. ( Know No ), you may not go to that concert unless ( your / you're ) 18.
16. After practice, I walked ( strait / straight ) to my bed, ( to / too ) tired to eat.
17. ( Were / Where ) you scared during the movie at all?
18. Clean your room, and ( than / then ) you may watch TV.
19. The site of the new shopping mall will be over ( their / there / they're ).
20. ( Which / Witch ) ( of / off ) them do you want?
21. I ( hear here ) that you've won a trip to Europe.
22. I do not ( no / know ) the answer to this problem.

23. I'm not sure ( weather / whether ) it will rain this weekend or not.
24. My friends have seen me ( threw / through ) some difficult times.
25. She was ( quiet / quite ) surprised by her birthday present.
26. If the ( weather / whether ) is bad, we will have to cancel our camping trip.
27. In study hall, all students must be ( quiet / quite ).
28. He ( threw / through ) the ball right ( hear / here ) and broke a car window.

**Part 2: Circle the misused words in the paragraph below. Above the error, write the correct word choice.**

In Cambodia, around 55 miles north of Phnom Penh, tarantula spiders are commonly eaten by the locals, but travelers who pass through often try them, too. (Would you take a bite of one? I don't know whether I would or not. I'd have to be starving! Maybe they're better than worms, though.) The practice began in the days of the Khmer Rouge when food was too scarce and the people were hungry. But apparently the locals developed a taste for the furry eight-legged arachnids, and now they're a major part of the town's dietary intake. According to the people who eat spiders, they're quite good! Hundreds of spiders are hunted, cooked, and sold every day in what must be one of the more unusual 'fast food' arrangements in the world.

(From *weird-food.com*)

**Part 3: On a separate sheet of paper, write one sentence for each set of words, underlining each commonly confused word. (You may write more than one sentence per set if needed.) Staple the paper to this sheet.**

**Example:** I'm quite excited that the students are quiet today so we can all write!

1. (were, where, we're)
2. (its, it's)
3. (your, you're)
4. (there, their, they're)
5. (to, too, two)
6. (then, than)

Exercise A

In the following paragraph, the verb tenses are not consistent. Decide whether the paragraph should be in the present tense or past tense. Fix the paragraph, making sure to use consistent verb tense.

EXAMPLE [1] When Jeff invited me to go to the carnival with his family, I say, "Yes."

[1] When Jeff invited me to go to the carnival with his family, I said, "Yes." or When Jeff invites me to go to the carnival with his family, I say, "Yes."

[1] By the time Saturday came, I am ready to go. [2] Jeff's parents drive us there, and we parked as close to the front entrance as we can. [3] After making arrangements to meet them in two hours at the bumper cars, we walk down the midway. [4] There were all kinds of rides, and we decide which ones we wanted to try. [5] We found a ticket booth, and we each buy twelve tickets. [6] For the first ride, we take it easy and just went on the Ferris wheel. [7] It's fun to see all the lights when we were stopped at the top of the wheel. [8] After that, we went on a couple of wild rides that are scary but fun. [9] All that excitement makes us thirsty, so we find a refreshment stand and ordered two lemonades. [10] Before we know it, it was ten o'clock and time to meet Jeff's parents.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## SOL Grammar Skills – self assessment

How well I think I know this skill

4=Using this skill is automatic

3=I get this skill right most of the time

2=I'm familiar with this skill, but can't always apply it

1=I struggle with this skill)

Skill	How well I think I know this skill (1-4)
Capitalization	
Subject-Verb Agreement	
Fragments vs. Sentences	
Opener Commas (AAAWWUBBIS)	
Commas in a List	
FANBOY commas	
Colons	
Semi-colons	
Parallel Structure	
Apostrophes	
Paragraphing	

