

Write on Course

20-20

SkillsBook

Grade 7



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Punctuation Review 1

Directions

Proofread the paragraphs below. Draw a line through any mark of punctuation or word that is used incorrectly; add any needed punctuation or capital letters. (For more information see 479.1–495.4 in *Write on Course 20-20*.) The first two sentences have been done for you.

1 Picture a New England beach in autumn. The sky is clear, the
2 sun warms your face. The green sea has washed ashore almost 100 of
3 it's most magnificent creatures whales to die. A biologist walks among
4 the bloating bodies of the whales and he is clearly puzzled.

5 Mass whale suicides, or "strandings" as they are called, occur year
6 after year. Many people have tried to understand these unusual
7 deaths, even Aristotle the ancient Greek, philosopher thought about the
8 whales deaths. Although he decided the whales may indeed be killing
9 themselves modern biologists are not so easily convinced."

10 One researcher points out that the whales may have once
11 been land dwelling animals. He thinks the whales may simply be
12 remembering their ancient roots, and beaching themselves to "go home."
13 This habit however would have put the whale close to extinction years
14 ago so the idea doesn't make much sense.

15 A newer theory suggests that the whales blindly follow their food
16 supplies, into shallow water. For example they may swim after a shoal
17 of squid quickly eat their dinner and then find themselves too close to
18 the shore.

24 Biologists realize of course that none of these findings are
25 complete explanations. Some feel that the strandings must have a
26 number of causes not just one.

Capitalization Mixed Review

Directions

Carefully read the following essay and add capital letters wherever necessary. (For capitalization rules, see 496.1–499.3 in *Write on Course 20-20*.)

1 Baseball legends like babe ruth, hank aaron, roger maris, and
2 sammy sosa have helped make baseball an all-american pastime. for years
3 fans have crowded into stadiums around the country to witness these home-
4 run hitters at their best.

5 one of the most gifted and popular players of all time was babe ruth.
6 babe's real name was george herman ruth, and he was born in baltimore,
7 maryland. babe ruth pitched for the boston red sox, played outfield for the
8 new york yankees, and even coached for the brooklyn dodgers. though ruth
9 was very talented in all these areas, the thing he is most remembered
10 for is his home-run hitting. his record of 60 home runs in one season was
11 unchallenged until 1962 when roger maris, another american league player,
12 broke the record with 61 home runs in one season. babe ruth was elected to
13 the baseball hall of fame in 1936.

14 in the 90's, records continued to be broken by baseball legends such as
15 sammy sosa. sosa broke maris's record in september 1998 and finished the
16 season with 66 home runs. baseball fans won't soon forget Sammy Sosa. not
17 only was he an incredible hitter, but he also demonstrated to his fans what it
18 means to play with dignity, class, and humility.

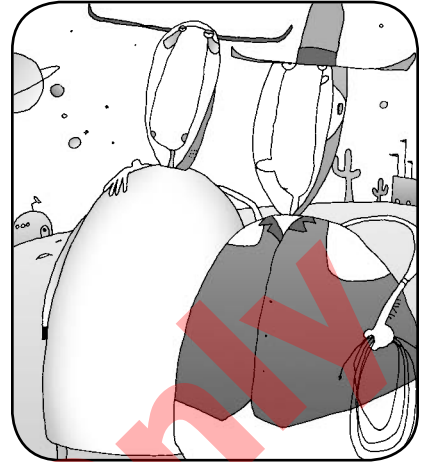
19 sosa was voted the 1998 national league most valuable player by the
20 baseball writers association of america. at wrigley field, sosa said, “winning
21 the mvp is not for me; it’s for the people of the city of chicago.” besides his 66
22 homers, sosa led the major leagues with 158 rbi’s and took the cubs to the
23 national league play-offs.

24 sosa is from san pedro de macoris in the dominican republic. after the
25 1998 baseball season, sosa helped the victims of hurricane george. he
26 raised money to buy food for people in the dominican republic and other
27 caribbean countries. sosa also asked the japanese government to send
28 1,000 prefab houses to the dominican republic.

29 people in the united states also benefited from Sosa’s season. seven of
30 sosa’s home-run balls were auctioned off. the money from sosa’s home-run
31 ball 61 went to the sammy sosa foundation, an organization that helps kids.

Plurals and Spelling

Developing spelling skills takes time and patience. Using your spell checker and a dictionary can help. (See 500.1–501.3 and 503.1–503.4 in *Write on Course 20-20* to review rules about spelling correctly. Also use the guide on pages 504–510.)



Directions

On the lines provided in the following sentences, write the correctly spelled word from the parentheses. The first sentence has been done for you.

- At rodeos, cowboys show their skills at handling cattle.
(rodeos, rodeoes) (handleing, handling)
- At these competitions, _____ skills are important.
(rideing, riding)
- Steer _____ is a popular event for competitors.
(wrestleing, wrestling)
- _____ is another name for this event.
(Bulldogging, Bulldoging)
- In this event, the cowboy tries _____ the horns of the steer
(grabbing, grabing)
to twist the head of the animal to one side.
- The steer loses its balance, _____ it to fall to the ground.
(forcing, forceing)
- Calf _____ is another important skill for ranchers and cowboys.
(ropeing, roping)
- The cowboy _____ the calf with a _____ rope.
(lassoes, lassos) (looped, loopped)
- The cowboy then _____ together three of the calf's _____.
(ties, tys) (feet, feets)

10. In barrel _____, competitors ride horses around barrels.
(*racing, raceing*)
11. Some may _____ rodeos are dangerous for the animals.
(*believe, beleive*)
12. However, people are _____ not to hurt the animals.
(*careful, carful*)
13. While _____ these animals, the cowboys are practicing
(*battleing, battling*)
skills that will help them in _____ their livestock.
(*raiseing, raising*)
14. My family and _____ are _____ to helping
(*freinds, friends*) (*committed, commited*)
_____ understand the sport.
(*children, childrens*)
15. In junior rodeos, kids rope goats instead of _____, but
(*calves, calfs*)
_____ of those animals is easy to rope.
(*niether, neither*)
16. Rodeo clowns throw _____ of confetti to distract angry bulls.
(*handfuls, handsful*)
17. At the _____ of their act, some clowns play _____.
(*beginning, begining*) (*banjoes, banjos*)
18. Rodeo cowboys compete by riding _____, bulls, and broncos.
(*steers, steeres*)
19. Professional rodeo cowboys buy _____ hats and boots at the many
(*their, thier*)

Cowboy Country Stores located in the western United States.

Next Step Write a paragraph about an interesting sports event. Share the paragraph with a classmate. Ask the classmate to check your writing for correct spelling and use of plurals.