

Write on Course

20-20

SkillsBook

Grade 8



Table of Contents

Proofreading Activities

Marking Punctuation

End Punctuation	3
Comma Rules	5
Commas in a Series	7
Commas Between Independent Clauses	9
Commas to Separate Equal Adjectives	10
Commas with Introductory Clauses and Phrases	11
Commas with Nonrestrictive Clauses	13
Commas in Dialogue, Interruptions, and Interjections	15
Commas with Appositives	17
Comma Review	18
Punctuating Dialogue	19
Apostrophes 1, 2, and 3	21
Other Forms of Punctuation	27
Semicolons	29
Colons	31
Hyphens 1 and 2	33
Dashes	36
Italics and Quotation Marks	37
Punctuation Review	39

Editing for Mechanics

Capitalization and Abbreviations	41
Capitalization 1 and 2	43
Plurals and Spelling 1 and 2	47
Abbreviations and Numbers	49
Mechanics Review	51

Using the Right Word

Using the Right Word 1, 2, 3, and 4	53
Using the Right Word Review 1 and 2	59

Sentence Activities

Sentence Basics

Subjects and Predicates	65
Compound Subjects and Predicates	67
Phrases and Clauses 1 and 2	69
Misplaced Modifiers	73
Types of Sentences 1 and 2	75
Kinds of Sentences 1 and 2	79

Sentence Combining

Combining with Key Words	83
Combining with Phrases	85
Combining with a Series of Words or Phrases	87
Combining with Longer Sentences	89
Combining with Adjective Clauses	91
Combining with Compound Subjects and Verbs	93
Combining with Compound and Complex Sentences	95
Sentence Combining Review 1 and 2	97

Sentence Problems

Sentence Fragments 1 and 2	101
Comma Splices	105
Run-Ons	106
Comma Splices and Run-Ons	107
Eliminating Wordy Sentences	109
Rambling Sentences	111
Editing for Smoothness and Clarity	112
Sentence Errors 1 and 2	113
Sentence Parts	117

Sentence Variety

Adding Style to Your Sentences	119
Sentence Expanding	121

Parts of Speech Activities

Nouns

Uses of Nouns	125
Concrete, Abstract, and Collective Nouns	127
Nouns Review	129

Pronouns

Pronouns	131
Number and Person of Pronouns	133
Uses of Pronouns	135
Intensive and Reflexive Pronouns	137
Pronouns and Antecedents 1 and 2	139
Pronoun Shifts and Double Subjects	143
Indefinite Pronouns	145

Verbs

Simple Verb Tenses	147
Perfect Tense Verbs	149
Irregular Verbs	151
Transitive and Intransitive Verbs	153
Subject-Verb Agreement 1, 2, 3, and Review	155
Identifying Verbals	161
Using Specific Verbs	163

Adjectives

Adjectives	165
Using Adjectives to Compare	167
Special Adjectives	169

Adverbs

Adverbs 1 and 2	171
Types of Adverbs	173
Double Negatives	174

Prepositions

Prepositions	175
--------------	-----

Interjections

Interjections	176
---------------	-----

Conjunctions

Coordinating Conjunctions	177
Correlative Conjunctions	179
Subordinating Conjunctions	181

Parts of Speech

Parts of Speech Review 1 and 2	183
--------------------------------	-----

Comma Review

Here's a chance for you to practice two more uses of commas. Review the examples below before you begin your work. (Also see 485.3 in *Write on Course 20-20*.)

Examples

A comma is used to set off a nonrestrictive clause:

- The report, which was thoroughly researched, received an A+.

(The clause "which was thoroughly researched" is purely descriptive and could be eliminated without changing the meaning of the sentence. Commas are required.)

A comma is not used to set off a restrictive clause:

- The speech that the police officer gave convinced us to obey the curfew.

(The clause "that the police officer gave" is necessary to the meaning of the sentence.) **Note:** When you are trying to decide whether to start your clause with *which* or with *that*, use *which* for nonrestrictive clauses and *that* for restrictive.

Directions

Underline the restrictive clauses and the nonrestrictive clauses in the sentences below. Add commas where necessary.

1. My cousin's bus is one of the new ones that run on natural gas.
2. My bus which is one of the old yellow ones runs on smelly diesel fuel.
3. When my driver is late which is unusual she says it's because she doesn't have enough passengers.
4. Traffic is a problem because there are too many people who are driving their own cars instead of taking buses.
5. Alex who has a chronic cough says that air pollution is a bad problem in our city.
6. There would be less traffic and less pollution if more people who now ride alone in their cars rode buses.
7. Alex's method of getting to school which is walking doesn't pollute.

Punctuation Review

Directions

Carefully read the paragraphs below. Draw a line through any errors in punctuation and capitalization. Add punctuation and capitalization as needed. The first few errors have been corrected for you.

1 [“]“The Murders in the Rue Morgue”[”] a short story by Edgar Allan
2 Poe[,] is thought to be the first example of the detective story. Although
3 Poe’s character C. Auguste Dupin may have been the first fictional
4 detective he is by no means the best-known that honor certainly
5 falls to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s immortal Sherlock Holmes Holmes
6 who is known to millions of readers and viewers around the world
7 first appeared in 1887. Doyle’s books as well as numerous films and
8 television shows feature Sherlock and his constant companion,
9 Dr. Watson

10 The reasons for Holmes enduring popularity are themselves a
11 bit of a mystery for in many ways Holmes was not a very likable
12 person. He was short tempered and he was unkind to other detectives,
13 especially Police Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard.

14 Holmes’s ever questioning mind and dislike for displays of emotion
15 made him appear cold calculating and uncaring. He was an expert
16 violin player and could play beautifully when he felt like it Holmes
17 in fact was very moody. When he had nothing to occupy his mind he
18 became bored and depressed. He would sit around for days making

19 horrible squawks and screeches on the violin, which drove Dr. Watson
20 nearly crazy.

21 holmes was not exactly a picture perfect roommate either. He left
22 chemicals for his scientific experiments all over the place and he kept
23 his smelly messy pipe tobacco in his old, bedroom slippers. He stuck
24 his mail to the mantle with a penknife and he stashed his many
25 book's and papers wherever it seemed convenient at the time.

26 Despite Holmes cool personality and his weird personal habits
27 Watson was genuinely fond of him and although he rarely showed it
28 Holmes also cared deeply for his friend. When Doyle made it appear
29 that Holmes had died while fighting with Dr. Moriarty Holme's
30 toughest opponent the reaction against Doyle was tremendous. People
31 responded as though a longtime personal friend had died real people
32 seemed just as upset as the fictional Dr. Watson at the report of
33 Holmes death. After three years Watson and thousands of fans
34 breathed a sigh of relief when Sir Arthur Conan Doyle brought Holmes
35 back.

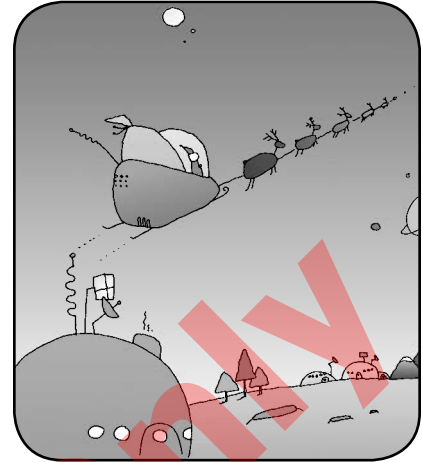
Next Step Once you go through this exercise finding as many errors as you can, you might want to check your answers with a classmate (if your teacher doesn't object). If you discover differences in your corrections, you might want to discuss them and check in *Write on Course 20-20*. Then make additional corrections as needed.

Plurals and Spelling 1

Making the plural form of most nouns is easy. All you do is add *s* to the singular. But there are always exceptions. (See 500.1–501.3 in *Write on Course 20-20*.)

Directions

After each singular word below, write the plural form of the word. The first one has been done for you.



- | | | | |
|------------------|---|--------------|---|
| 1. cup | <u> cups </u> | 16. reindeer | <u> </u> |
| 2. roof | <u> </u> | 17. sleighs | <u> </u> |
| 3. mile | <u> </u> | 18. life | <u> </u> |
| 4. sister-in-law | <u> </u> | 19. key | <u> </u> |
| 5. mouthful | <u> </u> | 20. goose | <u> </u> |
| 6. child | <u> </u> | 21. radio | <u> </u> |
| 7. monkey | <u> </u> | 22. donkey | <u> </u> |
| 8. hoof | <u> </u> | 23. fox | <u> </u> |
| 9. cry | <u> </u> | 24. dress | <u> </u> |
| 10. thief | <u> </u> | 25. piano | <u> </u> |
| 11. loaf | <u> </u> | 26. marker | <u> </u> |
| 12. solo | <u> </u> | 27. chief | <u> </u> |
| 13. box | <u> </u> | 28. tomato | <u> </u> |
| 14. knife | <u> </u> | 29. lunch | <u> </u> |
| 15. pailful | <u> </u> | 30. dish | <u> </u> |

Using the Right Word Review 1

Directions

Draw a line through any incorrect underlined word and write the correct form above it. Do not change a word that is correct. The first line has been done for you. (See 511.1–525.7 in *Write on Course 20-20* for information on using the right word.)

1 Last year, Carlos worked with the Watsonville fireworks team, that ^{which} put
2 together the Fourth of July fireworks display. He was able to do so because
3 his uncle owns the company, Fire in the Sky, Inc. Uncle Diaz, whom works
4 with medium-sized communities, likes Watsonville. He enjoys this town
5 because the town counsel wants something special, realizes its funds are
6 limited, but finds donations to provide an exciting celebration.

7 Last year was special for Carlos not only because he worked with his
8 uncle but also because an extra-special rocket was fired like a grand finale.
9 It was billed as much louder and having greater special effects then any
10 of the other fireworks. During the months of May and June, Carlos would
11 stop buy to check on the great rocket. Carlos wasn't allowed to work in the
12 factory, but he was able to visit. He peeked at every project on the tables.
13 He was as a reporter, constantly asking questions. His uncle would laugh
14 and say, "Your questions are like a string of firecrackers."

15 Finally, the big day arrived. Carlos was under no allusions; he knew
16 he could not be on the firing line. However, his uncle let him walk through

17 the mane area where the display was set up. Uncle Diaz carefully explained
18 how the system worked; his crew used an electrical-firing control panel. He
19 told Carlos that the ascent of the big rocket would be more rapid and more
20 dramatic than any of the other shots. The work Carlos had to do was hard,
21 but he didn't complain. After finishing his job, he collapsed on a spot of
22 bear ground totally worn out.

23 A little bit later, Uncle Diaz surprised Carlos by telling him that he
24 would fire the last rocket, the big rocket. Wow! What a moral booster. Carlos
25 was so excited he scarcely noticed the continuous firing of the other rockets
26 during the regular performance. Than, the moment came. Uncle Diaz,
27 that handed Carlos the control, told him to push the button. The rocket
28 seemed to sit still forever, but all of a sudden it roared into the sky, its fiery
29 coarse climbing higher and higher. Finally, the great rocket exploded with
30 a tremendous boom, filling the sky with long, streaming flairs of light. It
31 seemed like the birth of a star. The explosion was so loud, Carlos thought
32 every pain of glass in town must have broken. People loved it. Carlos could
33 hear them cheer, clap, and honk their car horns. It was a successful ending
34 to a fine fireworks performance. Uncle Diaz told him to lie the remote
35 control on the table and help break down the site. He ran to take the canvas
36 off the back of the truck. He felt good about the complement his uncle had
37 given him. He wants to help his uncle again this summer.