

TEN-MINUTE GRAMMAR

DAY ONE

COMMA RULES ONE

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

1. I went to the store to buy a bag of chips a can of soda and a box of Twinkies.
2. My neighbor has a hideous stinky pet dog.
3. I don't know what to tell you John.
4. My brother was born on July 4 1997 so we always light fireworks for his birthday party.
5. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is located at 1100 Rock and Roll Boulevard Cleveland Ohio.

Read the following example sentences from Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt. Find the missing commas in each sentence:

6. Turner Buckminster had lived in Phippsburg Maine for almost six whole hours.
7. The ball dropped onto the granite plate bounced up against his knee plopped back onto the plate and rolled still against his ankle.

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):

N U S E T Q A I

TEN-MINUTE GRAMMAR

DAY TWO

COMMA RULES ONE

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. I'd like eggs, pancakes, and a glass of orange juice.
2. Lizzie stop texting me!
3. The world will end on December 21, 2012, according to the Mayans.
4. My friend Freddie's address is 1313 Elm Street, Eerie, Indiana, which is kind of freaky.

“Equal adjectives” are two or more adjectives that describe a noun in a similar or equal way, and they should be separated by a comma. You know adjectives are “equal” if it sounds correct to put an “and” between them.

Decide whether the two bold adjectives need a comma between them (answer YES or NO):

5. I try to stay away from that **danger-filled crime-ridden** part of town.
6. We built a clubhouse in the **old elm** tree behind our house.
7. Grandpa is a **friendly generous** man.
8. Your friend is an **obnoxious inconsiderate** person.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

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

GYLU EOMLN ORWDTA ESDEAIS RENNDEWO

TEN-MINUTE GRAMMAR

DAY
THREE

COMMA RULES ONE

In the last two days, you have learned several comma rules. Create your own example sentence for each of the following rules:

1. Separate three or more items in a list with commas.
2. Separate two equal adjectives with a comma.
3. With dates, use a comma between the day and the year *and* after the year *if* the sentence continues.
4. With addresses or locations, use a comma after the street name, after the city, *and* after the state *if* the sentence continues.

A “direct address” is when a speaker addresses or speaks to a person and calls that person by name. Separate a direct address with commas.

Decide whether the bold name needs commas before or after it (answer YES or NO):

5. I need to talk to you about your video game addiction **Jason**.
6. **Jason** needs to stop playing video games so much.
7. I think **Hilary** should stop being so rude to my sister.
8. Listen **Hilary** you can’t talk about my sister like that.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

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

HAIR

TEN-MINUTE GRAMMAR

DAY
FOUR

COMMA RULES ONE

Read the following excerpts from Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Box by Gary D. Schmidt. Then answer the questions afterward:

(a) The house perched on its raft as though it were trying not to be sick. (b) Its roof beams sagged in the middle its shingles clung loosely and the chimney pipe swayed with each wave.

1. Where do two commas need to be added in sentence (b) and why?
- (c) Lizzie’s grandfather looked like a white-haired fiery-eyed Old Testament prophet without the robes.
2. Where does sentence (c) need a comma and why?
- (d) “Turner no one on that island is fit company for a minister’s son.”
- (e) Not a single one. (f) Heaven only knows what goes on over there.”
3. Where does sentence (d) need a comma and why?
4. Which sentence is NOT an independent clause: (d), (e), or (f)?

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

The bote seemed like a lithe living thing and if Turner had been in some other moment and not being tugged along behind like a reluctant dog he might have let his self marvel at the soundless beauty of it all.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

➤ **CATALOG CREATOR:** The prefix “**auto-**” means “self” and sounds like “otto.” How many words can you list that contain this prefix?