

NAME:

PERIOD:

DATE:



Cruella DeVil, the Comma Kidnapper

Cruella DeVil, the Comma Kidnapper, has always had a thing for spots. Why just the other day she was laughing about her diabolical plot to make a spotted fur coat from leopards, cheetahs, and Dalmatians. Lately, it seems she's taken her obsession with spots to a whole new level, snatching commas, too. Heroes, to stop this villain we must put the commas back in the right place and restore peace to the Grammatical Kingdom.

Rule 1: Use commas to separate three or more words, phrases, or clauses in a series.

Examples:

Phrases: This morning, Cruella woke up, combed her hair, brushed her teeth, and called her fur maker.

Write an example of your own:

Clauses: In fact, the bus to Cruella's school was full of people who combed their hair, who brushed their teeth, and who called their fur makers.

Write an example of your own:

Incorrect: The park was filled with happy couples, noisy children and puppies. (Leaving out the last comma makes it look like the puppies were noisy, too.)

Correct: The park was filled with happy couples, noisy children, and puppies. (The comma makes the sentence's meaning more clear.)

Directions: Correctly add the stolen commas to these sentences:

1. Cruella failed tests in mathematics reading and writing, but she aced her fashion exams.
2. Cruella's mother bought a couch a table and four chairs, all covered in fur, for their house.
3. Pongo Perdita and the puppies should fear Cruella Horace and Jasper.
4. Cruella likes to go to Paris for the fashion shows the couture fur coats and the car shows.
5. The rain splashed against the house onto the sidewalk and into the street.
6. Horace and Jasper grabbed a sack a bat and a crowbar before leaving to get the puppies.

This is only the beginning,
darlings!



Rule 2: Use commas to set off the year in a date if three parts of date are given (month, day, year). Do not use commas if only two parts are given.

Examples: Cruella left May 23, 1958, at night.

I know that July 1776 is an important date.

Write an example of your own:



Rule 3: If the sentence continues on after the date, you must use a comma to separate the date from the rest of the sentence.

Examples: On September 21, 2008, the New York Yankees played their last game at Yankee Stadium.

On Monday, September 22, the Autumn equinox occurred.

Write an example of your own:

Directions: Place the stolen commas where they are needed in these sentences:

1. Did you know that the puppies were kidnapped on July 17 1826?
2. On December 13 1831 Cruella was sent to jail.
3. Her trial started June 24 1830 in London England.
4. She was asked, "Where were you on the night of July 18 1826?"
5. On Friday July 20 1826 the accident happened, allowing police to arrest Cruella.
6. The puppies were returned to their owners later on the night of 20th.

If its criminal to be
fabulous fashionable and
fur-loving, I'm guilty!



I must find this United Center! A bulls coat sounds utterly fabulous!



Directions: Put the stolen commas back in the right place(s) in the sentences:

1. The Civil War began on Friday April 12 1861.
2. The Battle of Gettysburg was fought on Wednesday July 1 1863.
3. Texas became a state on December 29 1845.
4. A huge earthquake struck San Francisco on April 18 1906.
5. One of America's biggest blizzards took place on January 27 1967.
6. On January 30 2006, I watched the Bulls win at the United Center.
7. Write a sentence with commas in a date used correctly.

8. Write a sentence with commas in a date used correctly.

9. Write a sentence with commas in a date used correctly.

10. Write a sentence with commas in a date used correctly.

Rule 4: Use commas to separate geographical places, such as cities, counties, regions, states, and countries.

Example: Cruella lives in London, England.

Write an example of your own:



Directions: Place the stolen commas where they are needed.

1. Cruella has an aunt in Furryville Ohio.
2. Her fashion headquarters in located in Paris France.
3. Horace and Jasper Badun are from Salsberry England.
4. Hell Hall, Cruella's home, can be found off a dirt road in Lancaster England.
5. Lucky, one of the captured Dalmatians dreamed of moving to Orlando Florida.
6. Nanny was from Great Falls Montana and the butler was from Twin Falls Idaho.



Rule 5: Use commas when directly addressing someone.

Example: Can you come here, Horace?

“Anita, you fool! You’ll be sorry,” Cruella, the deranged woman, shrieked.

“Roger, she’s such a horrible woman,” Anita said collapsing into her husband’s arms.

Write an example of your own.

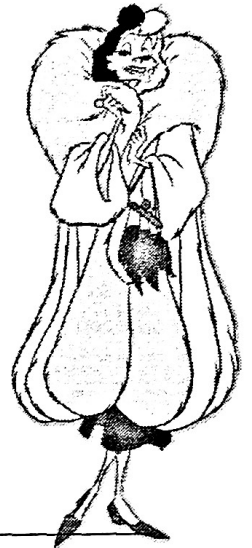
Directions: Place the stolen commas where they are needed.

1. "Jasper the job must be done tonight," Cruella screamed on the telephone.
2. "Can you come here Pongo," Roger called.
3. "Perdita they're gone. It's safe to come out now," Pongo comforted.
- 4.

Rule 6: Use commas after *Yes* and *No*.

Example: Yes, I will come to your house this weekend.

Write an example of your own:

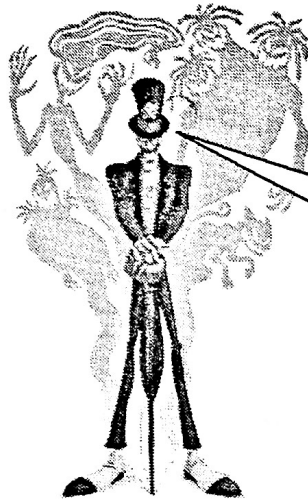


Directions: Place the stolen commas where they are needed.

1. "No I want the job done tonight!" Cruella commanded.
2. Yes we understand you are looking for the puppies.
3. No I don't think there is any more you can do. Thank you.

Horace are
you sure
this pen
works?





When I'm through with you, you'll wish you ain't never been alive, for I've got friends on the other side!

Dr. Facilier, the Subordinate Clause Conspirator

Dr. Facilier is the resident voodoo master of Louisiana. He lures the desperate and makes them promises—promises he keeps, but they always have unexpected outcomes. Dr. Facilier also holds the key to great sentence variety: complex sentences. See if you can see past his bayou trickery.

Clauses are like the building blocks of a sentence. Like any builder, you must understand your materials. A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb. There are two types of clauses: main clauses (independent) and **subordinate clauses** (dependent).

A **subordinate clause**, a type of _____ clause, cannot stand on its own.

Ex. When night falls (what happens?)
happen?)

If the monster is hungry (what will
happen?)

Each of these clauses is a sentence fragment that leaves you wondering, *then what?* Now, cover up the first word in each clause. Note that each clause now expresses a complete thought. Words such as *when* and *if* **subordinate**. That is, they make it necessary for the clauses they introduce to be linked to a main clause in order to form a complete sentence. Such words are called subordinating conjunctions, and they introduce subordinating clauses.

Subordinating Conjunctions

After	Because	So	Until
Although	Before	So that	Whatever
As	If	Than	When
As if	In order that	Though	Where
As long as	Provided	Till	Wherever
As though	Since	Unless	While

You now have the building blocks to make complex sentences. A **complex sentence** is a sentence that contains one main clause and one subordinate clause.

When you owe a debt to Dr. Facieler, you better pay it, or he'll make you pay in another way.

The Shadow-man worked his voodoo magic as the prince became a frog.

Directions: Underline each main clause once and each subordinate clause twice. Sentences for this section are from *The Writer's Craft* by McDougal Littell.

1. Although dreadful beasts appear in today's movies, such scary monsters are nothing new.
2. As long as human beings have been on the earth, they have told stories about strange and terrible creatures.
3. As one looks into those old stories, one finds many different kinds of monsters.
4. Most commonly, however, when people have been afraid of some kind of horrible creature, it was a dragon.
5. Some people actually searched for fiery dragons, while others believed in zombies or vampires.
6. Folklore often presents the monsters as horrible animals, although the creatures often possessed human qualities as well.

7. In Greek mythology, Argus was a monster with a hundred eyes so that he could see everywhere at once.
8. Hydra, the many-headed serpent, would grow a new head whenever one was cut off.
9. The Harpy, half bird and half woman, would steal from her victims before they could begin their meals.
10. While the Minotaur had the body of a man, his head was definitely that of a bull.
11. Because Medusa had scary eyes, sharp fangs, and snakes instead of hair on her head, she was considered rather ugly.
12. People would turn to stone if they took one look at her.
13. Cerberus seemed like a nice dog until all three of his heads barked at once.
14. The fire-breathing chimera certainly qualified as a monster since she had a lion's head, a goat's body, and a serpent's tail.
15. As long as the world is thought of as a dangerous place, people will probably believe in monsters.

Directions: Complete the subordinate clauses with a main clause to form a complex sentence.

1. When Ray, the fire-fly, glowed, _____
2. Before Luis, the alligator could play his trumpet,

3. When Tiona kissed Naveen, the frog, _____



4. Because Dr. Facielier could read Tarot cards,

5. Unless Naveen experienced true love's kiss before midnight,



If you dig a little deeper, you'll find out what you need: a main clause and a subordinate clause.