

## W1.3

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Read the passage and answer the question(s).

### When Commas Attack!

The following is a student's rough draft and may contain errors.

(1) In the process of creative writing, grammar is often overlooked. This is unfortunate. Grammar is a set of accepted rules that can greatly increase the reader's understanding of the composition. Grammar is a roadmap, showing how to get where you are planning to go with your words. One of the core components of grammar is the comma. It can be a complex tool, yet simplistic after it is learned. The elusive comma is often misunderstood and misused: there are only a few times when a comma is mandatory; other times, style and interpretation play a big part in its use.

(2) Grammatical phrases such as "appositive" and "compound sentences" can be scary to any writer that has not mastered grammar. Appositives are pairings of two nouns that, in context, mean the same thing. For example, if one were to say, "My mother, Debra, is a good cook," then "Debra" would be the appositive. Notice that the appositive is enclosed in commas. Think of it as capturing a redundant noun and keeping it separate from the rest of the sentence. Compound sentences are a little friendlier. When you take two complete sentences and join them together, it is a compound sentence. These are usually separated by a linking word such as "and" or "but." However, the two sentences will fall apart unless you put a comma before the linking word: "The cats are gray, and the dogs are tan." Think of this comma as the pin that links two train cars together.

(3) Commas that do not have a rule are usually thought of as "style" commas. Depending on how one wants the sentence read, a comma can be placed in virtually any place. The comma can drastically change the meaning of the sentence. Some people will put a comma in a place where others would not. For example, lists of nouns require commas to separate each noun (e.g., dogs, cats, chickens). A linking word (from the same list of linking words used in compound sentences) is necessary before the last noun in the list (e.g., dogs, cats, and chickens). The controversy is over whether there should be a comma before the linking word ("and," in the previous example) as there is in compound sentences. There is no actual rule; this comma is a matter of style. Personally, if there were a list of pairs of items, it would make sense to me to put the comma there: "Cows and pigs, dogs and cats, and llamas and camels." It lets us know that "dogs and cats" is a separate pairing from "llamas and camels." Otherwise, it would seem as though dogs, cats, llamas, and camels are all linked together. Still, it is a matter of personal style whether that last comma is necessary.

(4) It is nearly as confusing to try to explain how to use a comma as it is to actually use them. However, as with anything, practice makes perfect. In the entirety of this essay, there are 42 commas. Most of these commas are not explained in this essay. Some are there because they must be there, due to grammatical rules. Others are there because I, the writer, feel that the sentences are easier read with the commas in the places I chose to put them (note the appositive in that sentence, caged like a rabid animal). It is natural now for me to place a comma where it should be, and I often do not even notice them. Ultimately, I assure you, the reader appreciates a good comma.

(Questions 1-2)

1

What device is the author of the passage using in this sentence from Paragraph 4?

Others are there because I, the writer, feel that the sentences are easier read with the commas in the places I chose to put them (note the appositive in that sentence, caged like a rabid animal.)

- A** definition                      **B** analogy                      **C** quotation                      **D** contrast

2

**What sort of comparison does Paragraph 2 use in the last sentence?**

- A** simile      **B** contrast      **C** metaphor      **D** There is no comparison.

Read the following passage and answer the question(s).

### Amazing Architecture

Read the following draft of a student's essay. It may contain errors.

(1) Most artists can create a masterpiece by using simple tools like a paint brush and a canvas; however, beautiful artwork can also be created through modern architecture. (2) Engineers have taken the classic structures of bridges and buildings to a whole new level. (3) Many amazing architects have used nature as inspiration for their design. (4) These designers have pushed the limits and created structures that can not be called anything but remarkable.

(5) Building a bridge is difficult in itself, but creating it to be a beautiful piece of architecture is an even bigger challenge. (6) The Millau Viaduct is an engineering project that is considered to be a wonder of the world. (7) The designer of this bridge did the unthinkable and made something that was impossible possible, Michel Virlogeux. (8) He created a bridge that had a slender outline and has made it blend in with the surrounding nature. (9) The Millau Viaduct crosses over the Tarn River in the Southern part of France. (10) This is the tallest bridge in the entire world, reaching a height of 1122 feet.

(11) One of the world's most incredible hotels is currently under construction. (12) It may not be easily found. (13) This hidden structure is being built under water. (14) Hydropolis, which is located in Dubai, will be the world's first luxury hotel under water. (15) The hotel will have three main structures a place to greet the guests on land a tunnel that leads to the hotel and the underwater hotel itself. (16) The completion of the hotel is still under way, but the builders are hoping it will be finished in 2009.

(17) The Torre Agbar was built to look like a geyser shooting water in the air and is located in the city of Barcelona. (18) The tall shell-like shape measures over 450 feet in height. (19) The Torre Agbar illuminates color which creates a vibrant skyline at night.

(20) Combining architecture with nature is a great way to make something extraordinary. (21) When engineers use their environment as a model for their design, the end result can be breathtaking, like a spectacle, and brilliant.

(Question 3)

3

Which quotation would *best* support the thesis of the essay?

- A An American Architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, said, "Study nature, love nature, and stay close to nature. It will never fail you."
- B Tadao Ando said, "I would like my architecture to inspire people to use their own resources, to move into the future."
- C "All real education is the architecture of the soul," said William Bennett.
- D "There are no rules of architecture for a castle in the clouds," said Gilbert K. Chesterton.

**Read the passage and answer the following question(s).**

### **Standing Up for Yourself**

**This passage may contain errors.**

1) James is an eighth grader. He has red hair and freckles, he wears glasses, and he doesn't particularly care about the kinds of clothes he wears. Instead, he loves playing computer games. He's not very popular, as some of the more popular girls remind him daily.

2) He spends most breaks and lunches in the computer lab, not only because he likes to play the games, but also because it's usually a good place to hide out. But when the bullies get hard up for someone to pick on, they'll find him and start in. They'll ask him questions about who his favorite football team is, or who his favorite "rapper" is. He knows he isn't meant to answer, so he'll just sit. Then they'll call him names: nerd, geek. There isn't much James can do but take it until they get bored and leave.

3) He knows the old saying about sticks and stones breaking bones, and names never harming you. But firsthand experience has taught him differently. It is hurtful to be singled out and ridiculed. It is depressing to be excluded, having to try to be invisible to avoid harm.

4) Last year, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, a research arm of the federal government, conducted a survey throughout the United States of 15,686 students in grades 6 through 10. The survey found that "being teased is not just an unpleasant rite of passage through childhood; it's a public health problem that needs attention. People who are teased as children are more likely to suffer from low self-esteem, well into adulthood."

5) The study defined teasing as behavior intended to hurt or disturb another person. The behavior lasts for an extended length of time and involves a power play, in which the more powerful person or group attacks the less powerful one. Teasing may be physical, verbal, or psychological. In all, 29% of the students surveyed had been involved in some aspect of teasing.

6) The state of Colorado has created the Colorado Anti-Bullying Project. The project has researched the problem of teasing and come up with suggestions for how to cope with this problem at various levels: what kids can do, what parents can do, and what teachers can do. Coping suggestions can be found on their website, <http://www.nobully.com>, or through a phone call to 1-866-NO-BULLY.

7) The website offers the acronym STAMP to keep from being teased: Stay away from people who tease; Tell someone; Avoid bad situations; Make friends; Project confidence. If someone "gets in your face, then ignore the bully and walk away. Don't let them know they got to you. The person is looking for you to react, so don't." They pick on kids who are alone. The suggestion is to join activities, either at school or in the community, and to find friends who share the same interests. Stay away from a potential bad situation: walk to school with someone; stay away from kids who you think don't like you; avoid places where they hang out; sit near the bus driver; don't carry expensive things that might attract attention. Pay attention to your body language. "Slouching, looking at the ground or your feet, and fidgeting show that you're not confident. Look assertive and the person will be less likely to pick on you. Be confident—hold your head up, stand up straight, and look people in the eye. They don't pick on kids who are confident."

8) The website, <http://www.nobully.com>, recognizes that kids being teased may be afraid to tell on the bully. The website offers suggestions of signs parents should pay attention to:

- children coming home with torn clothes, lost money or lost objects
- children having unexplainable scratches or bruises
- children experiencing upset stomachs or headaches before school
- students who walk to school may take unusually long routes to get there
- students who appear fearful about taking a bus, or attending school at all
- students who feel anxious or stressed or depressed before or after school
- students who lose interest in schoolwork, and their academic performance may drop

9) Once parents have identified the signs, the website offers a checklist of suggestions to follow if their child is being teased.

10) All in all, the Colorado Anti-Bullying Project and its website have come up with many helpful suggestions to help stop the

serious problem of bullying.

(Questions 4-5)

4

**Read the following sentence from the passage.**

He knows the old saying about sticks and stones breaking bones, and names never harming you.

**What is this sentence an example of?**

- A** a familiar expression used to clarify the thesis
- B** an analogy used to support the thesis
- C** an opinion from an authority used as evidence
- D** a familiar expression used to support the thesis

5

**Which writing technique develops the topic in paragraph 5?**

- A** parallelism
- B** quotation
- C** comparison
- D** definition

Read the following passage and answer the question(s).

### Popular Pair of Pants

This is the first draft of Joel's essay. It may contain errors.

(1) Denim jeans are one of the most common pieces of clothing around. They are universal, practical, and something of style. Without a doubt, blue jeans are as American as apple pie or a good old game of baseball. This article of clothing is used in the fashion world as well as the working world. Even though there are many different brands and types of denim today, for many years only one was widely known and used.

(2) During the late 1840s, miners flooded to the far west to look for gold in California. They faced many challenges during their treasure hunting, including a lack of sturdy clothing. The treacherous work usually led to torn pants which slowed down the miner's work. Local businesses tried very hard to find a quality pants to sell to the miners; likewise, the product was not good enough.

(3) One inventive man Levi Strauss heard about the problems the miner's were facing and thought of a new way to create pants that could endure almost anything. At first, he created the pants out of tent canvas because it was extremely durable. However, the miners complained that it chafed them while they worked. To fix the problem, Strauss came up with a way to make the pants more comfortable by adding twill cotton, which was a softer fabric. This fabric eventually became known as denim.

(4) At the same time, Jacob Davis, a tailor, developed a way to make regular pants more durable. Davis came up with the idea of using copper rivets to strengthen the pockets of the pants. Eventually, Levi paired up with Jacob Davis to create a better pair of pants, the denim jean. Together, Levi and Davis bought a U.S. patent so no one would steal their invention. This patent would not let any other company make riveted jeans for twenty years. The two men received the patent on May 20, 1873, which became the "birthday" of blue jeans.

(5) Levi Strauss And Company created a functional piece of clothing that was very good for miners and workers in the United States. It was not until the 1950s that the blue jean became fashionable. What was first used by miners during the gold rush is now worn as comfortable everyday pants by most Americans.

(Question 6)

6

Which paraphrase would *best* support the concluding paragraph of the passage?

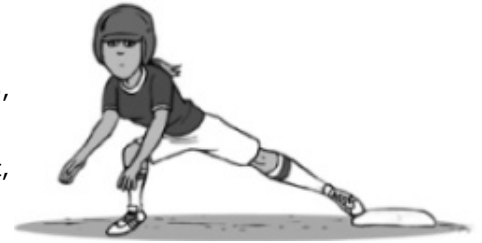
- A The California Gold Rush was one of the most important episodes in history, which brought people from all over the world in search for gold.
- B Even though they were originally made to be durable and useful, the jeans invented by Strauss became an international trend and a symbol of the American society.
- C The first Levi's blue jean for women, Lady Levi, was created in 1934.
- D Jacob Davis, an immigrant from Latvia, was a hard worker and watched over the Levi Strauss factory until 1908.

**Read the passages and answer the following question(s).**

The following is an article from a magazine about little-known sports facts.

**The All American Girls Baseball League**

During World War II, so many young men were serving in the army that several professional baseball teams were forced to disband. Chicago Cubs owner Philip K. Wrigley was afraid that major league baseball parks were in danger of going bankrupt. So, in 1943, he created the All American Girls Baseball League. Wrigley hoped that, if nothing else, the teams would attract a few fans interested in the unusual experience of watching women play professional sports. It turned out that the women's games were very exciting. In fact, at the league's peak in 1948, there were ten teams and more than a million fans.



But, by 1950, the league was in trouble. A new invention called television was entering more and more American households. It provided families with stay-at-home entertainment. Men's major league baseball games began to be televised and attendance at the women's games dropped. After very low attendance in 1954, the league disbanded.

Even though the league only lasted twelve years, it still holds people's interest today. Several popular books have been written about the history of the women's league. In 1988, a permanent display was installed at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum called "Women in Baseball." Then, in 1992, actress Geena Davis starred in the movie *A League of Their Own*. It told the story of how the league started and reminded viewers of that amazing era.

**Alta Weiss: The Belle of the Ball Game**

People who have seen the movie *A League of Their Own* know about the All American Girls Baseball League. However, few know that there were women playing baseball in men's leagues long before women took to the field in the 1940s. One of the first and best was Alta Weiss of Ohio.

Alta was the daughter of a doctor who taught her how to hunt and gave her a love for music. Most importantly, he also encouraged her to play sports, especially baseball. Her talent for the game was evident from the age of two, when she threw corncobs at a pesky tomcat that was bothering her. She had "the wrist-snap and follow-through of a major leaguer," according to Barbara Gregorich, a leading authority on women in baseball.

By the age of fourteen, Alta was playing first base for the "second team." This was a group of young prospects and second-tier players. The games were played at Weiss Ball Park, which her father had founded. However, her career in baseball began in earnest when her family was on vacation in Vermilion, Ohio. Alta saw some young men playing catch and joined them. The mayor of Vermilion, H.P. Williams, happened to be watching.

Mayor Williams suggested to Charles Heidloff, the manager of the men's semi-professional Vermilion Independents, that he sign Alta to play for the team. Heidloff refused. So instead, Williams arranged a doubleheader between two local teams, with Alta pitching for one team. She struck out fifteen men in the first game and nine in the second. Heidloff immediately changed his mind and asked her to join his team.

Women at the time were not allowed to wear pants, but Weiss found out that she couldn't play in skirts. "I tried," she said, "I wore a skirt over my bloomers and nearly broke my neck. Finally, I was forced to wear bloomers, but made wide enough that the fullness gave a skirt-like effect." No matter what Alta wore, she was a great pitcher who could throw a sinking fastball, a knuckle ball, and even a spitball. She knew how to change speeds so that even the best male hitters had a hard time hitting the ball.

In Alta's debut with the Independents in 1907, 1200 fans showed up to watch her pitch. The Independents won that first game in eleven innings with a score of 4-3. Alta became so popular with fans that special trains ran from Cleveland to Vermilion whenever she was scheduled to play. She routinely drew 3000 fans to each game.

Alta made enough money as a baseball player to put herself through medical school as the only woman in her class. While she was in school, the Olympic committee asked her to participate in the Olympics, but her father wouldn't allow it. During medical school, and even as a practicing physician, Alta continued to pitch occasionally in men's baseball leagues into the 1920s.



(Question 7)

7

**What device is the author using in the following sentence from Paragraph 5?**

She had "the wrist-snap and follow-through of a major leaguer," according to Barbara Gregorich, a leading authority on women in baseball.

**A** definition**B** analogy**C** quotation**D** contrast

Read the following passage and answer the question(s).

### Coach of the Century

This is the first draft of Adrian's report. It may contain errors.

One of the most distinguished football coaches of all time was Vince Lombardi. He was devoted, showed a lot of wisdom, and was full of enthusiasm. Even though he only coached one sport, his inspirational wisdom has been shared in many locker rooms around the world. One amazing characteristic of his was that he never settled for anything less than excellence.

Vince Lombardi was born in Brooklyn on June 11, 1913. Being the first of five children, he often took the role of a leader. This leadership ability carried on throughout his life. His career in football began in high school when he starred as a fullback. Vince was a great athlete. He was a brilliant student too. While in college he graduated with honors. After that, he played semi-pro football while working for a financial company.

His career in coaching began when he took a job at St. Cecilia High school in New Jersey. Seven years later, he left St. Cecilia and coached at his alma mater. An alma mater refers to the college someone attended. A couple of years later, he was an assistant coach for the United States Military academy at West Point. While he was at West Point, he learned a lot about leadership and perfection on the field.

He took his expertise from West Point and moved on to the highest level of the sport, professional football. Lombardi took an assistant coaching job for the New York Giants. He got a losing team and helped turn them into a championship team. Even though it was quite an accomplishment, Vince wanted something more challenging. After being the assistant coach in New York for four years, he was ready for his own team.

Vince took over as the head coach for the Green Bay Packers of Wisconsin. The Packers had only won one game the previous season. He demanded perfection from each player and expected them to give everything they had. Vince promised his team that if they followed what he said, they would be champions. That was exactly what happened. Only three years after Vince took over as head coach, the Green Bay Packers won the National Football League Championship in 1961. During the rest of his time coaching the Packers, Vince led the team to five championships. Throughout his time in Wisconsin, Lombardi and his team committed to excellence, and it paid off.

Vince Lombardi's coaching ability was nothing short of outstanding. Not only did he have a winning career as a coach on the football field, but he also left a positive impression on players and fans for many years. Vince Lombardi is one of the most admired coaches in history. In fact, he was so extraordinary that the Super Bowl Championship trophy was named after him. Every team that wins the Super Bowl will always remember Vince Lombardi.

(Question 8)

8

Which quotation would *best* support the thesis of the report?

- A "Vince was a great friend," states a fellow coach.
- B As a former player of Lombardi's states, "I've never been faced with another coach that pushed me as hard as Lombardi."
- C According to a sports reporter, "Lombardi was a great football player himself."
- D "Lombardi fought off his cancer until the end," suggests a sportscaster.

Read the following passage and answer the question(s).

### The Coffee Cart

**For extra credit, Jack's English teacher encouraged each student to write a letter to the school board about a new idea that could be implemented in the school. This is the first draft of Jack's letter. It may have some errors.**

Dear School Board of Cedarwood High School,

(1) I am writing this letter to request that the school board permit the Pro Start program to start and run a coffee cart on the school campus. (2) The Pro Start program is a course that combines culinary skills with business economics of the industry, and it is similar to the former class called *Home Economics*. (3) It has come to my attention that some schools in the area have already applied this great business plan, and it is running successfully. (4) I would like to share with you the reasons why running a coffee cart will benefit the entire student body.

(5) High school is supposed to be a preparatory school for life, whether it is for college or the work force. (6) Students take classes that are educational, enlightening, and are something of value. (7) For example, every senior has the privilege of taking a class called economics. (8) Most of what is taught to the students is through a big hard bound book. (9) I believe it is also essential for a school to teach they're students this subject in a practical way. (10) What better way to do this approach than through a student-run coffee cart?

(11) Isn't it the objective of teachers to train students to be responsible and for keeping them accountable? (12) According to Senator Jon Billings, "it absolutely is the job of educators to nurture responsibility, a teacher's work is to prepare them for their future." (13) The students will be liable for completely running the cart. (14) Whether it be through set up or clean up, purchasing supplies, running the register, or depositing the day's receipts, the students would be overseeing all aspects of the business. (15) All of these skills will better equip the student for their future, even if it isn't in the food service industry.

(16) Coffee is a beverage that is widely beloved and served at almost every street corner. (17) Not only is it quite tasty, it also has many beneficial perks. (18) No pun intended. (19) Coffee has been proven to help with memory and cognitive performance. (20) According to Dr. Jeffers, "Coffee helps to improve awareness, alertness, and aids in applicable learning." (21) This deliciously aromatic brew is also valuable because it has other health benefits like lowering cholesterol and lowering the risk of diabetes. (22) No, it isn't as healthy as tomato juice or green beans, but who wants to digest those things at 8:00 in the morning?

(23) If I can put my two cents in, I really believe that this coffee cart program would be the greatest teaching tool for the student body. (24) You have the opportunity to help the students learn by experience. (25) I know the board is quite busy and has a lot on their plate, but I would appreciate it if you could take the time to really consider this idea.

Sincerely,

Jack Green

(Question 9)

9 Which quotation would *best* support the concluding paragraph of the letter?

- A "Coffee is a beverage that puts one to sleep when not drank," said Alphonse Allais.
- B Walker Percy once said, "You can get all A's and still flunk life."
- C Barbara Tuchman, an author, once said, "Learning from experience is a faculty almost never practiced."
- D "A teacher is one who talks in someone else's sleep."

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

### The Kimono



Keiko was ashamed of the kimono. Aunt Fumika had presented it to her tonight after dinner. This visit from Aunt Fumika had been long awaited by the family. Keiko's parents had sacrificed much to arrange for Aunt Fumika's journey, and now Aunt Fumika would be here for six weeks. Now, the kimono from faraway Japan hung forlornly in the closet. It seemed to wonder if Keiko would ever wear it. Its intricate embroidery of red and pink floral design was embarrassing to Keiko. She was distressed by her inner rejection of something that represented her ethnic heritage.

The kimono was traditional. Its flowery brightness was perfectly suited for spring and summer. Summer vacation had just begun and her aunt was delighted to have given her special niece such an appropriate present. Now all of her niece's friends would know that Keiko's people came from Japan. The red and pink blossoms and green bamboo on her kimono were sure to bring her good fortune. Aunt Fumika had expressed these things that night at dinner, her ink-black eyes shining as Keiko had unfolded the kimono from its musty box.

Now Keiko lay in bed, agonizing. How would her friends react to seeing her in traditional Japanese dress instead of her usual California summer attire of a tank top, shorts, and sandals? Would her friends mock her or appreciate her ethnic pride? Each night for the next week, Keiko lay in bed staring at the moonlit patterns on the kimono in the closet. It seemed to reproach her.

Eight nights after Aunt Fumika's arrival, Keiko served a traditional Japanese dessert of *ohagi*. As the family savored the rich warmth of the sweet rice balls, Aunt Fumika began to talk of life in Japan. Aunt Fumika spoke perfect English, though accented. Keiko could understand every precise word. Keiko listened intently to the cadences of her aunt's sentences. They seemed to be swept along by a tide of emotion. In Aunt Fumika's voice, she could hear fierce pride, deep homesickness, and bittersweet nostalgia.

Keiko pictured the kimono in her closet, smothered behind a thick section of tank tops, sundresses, shorts, and swimsuits. Suddenly, the shame burning in Keiko's throat became painful.

Pushing away her plate of half-eaten *ohagi*, she jumped up and ran from the room, tears streaking her cheeks. She pounded up the stairs, ignoring her aunt's confused cries and her mother's worried questions. In her bedroom, she gently took the kimono from the closet, slipped it off its hanger, and pulled it on. Her tears of shame became tears of pride, the same pride she'd heard in Aunt Fumika's voice.

Smiling, she emerged from her bedroom, and walked triumphantly down the stairs into the dining room. Aunt Fumika stood with a gasp of pleasure and came toward her, arms outstretched.

"Beautiful, Keiko," she murmured, her voice catching as she clasped her niece to her in a warm embrace. In that moment, Keiko knew she had done exactly the right thing.

(Question 10)

10

**Read the following conclusion from "The Kimono."**

"Beautiful, Keiko," she murmured, her voice catching as she clasped her niece to her in a warm embrace. In that moment, Keiko knew she had done exactly the right thing.

**Which one of the following quotations does NOT support the conclusion of the passage?**

- A** To thine own self be true.
- B** The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.
- C** If I lose my honor, I lose myself.
- D** Honesty is more than not lying.