

CST Review:

Commas, Semicolons, colons

Commas

- There are four comma rules that will help you answer almost any comma questions on the CST.

Comma Rule 1

- Use a comma before the conjunction in a compound sentence.

- A compound sentence is when you have two sentences that are joined together by one of the following conjunctions:
- And, but, or, nor, for, so, yet

- The Lakers took the Hornets for granted, *and* Los Angeles suffered a humiliating defeat.

- Either Pao Gasol plays like an all-star, or the Laker playoff hopes are toast.

- Kobe lost the ball on a drive, *but* he recovered and drilled the shot.

- Our local mountains had above average snowfall this year, so Big Bear Lake is full to the brim.

Comma Rule 2

- Use a comma to set off introductory elements from the rest of the sentence.

- If Fox Sports West loans Frank McCourt \$30 million, he can pay off his wife in a divorce settlement.

- After his first four starts, Jered Weaver is a perfect 4 and 0.

- **Personally**, I prefer to watch UCLA football games over games played by a school that can't go to the post season.

- Unwilling to exert themselves unnecessarily, the Lakers always play to the level of their competition.

Comma Rule 3

- Use commas to set off additional but unneeded information from the rest of the sentence. If the additional information is needed to understand the main sentence, do not set the words off with commas.

- We need a flower that blooms in the shade.

Needed Information

No Commas

- Impatiens, flowers that bloom well in the shade, are available in many colors.

- Unneeded information
 - Use commas

- Any team **in the NCAA tournament for the first time** is at a disadvantage.

- Needed information
 - No commas

- San Diego State, in the NCAA tournament for the first time, is at a disadvantage.

- Not needed
- Use commas

- Those students **who have detention** should meet Mr. Johnson on Saturday in the quad.

- Information needed
 - No commas

- Jaime and Jose, **who have detention**, should meet Mr. Johnson on Saturday in the quad.

- Information not needed
 - Use commas

Comma Rule 4

- Use commas to separate items in a series.

- My favorite foods are chocolate covered ice cream, pepperoni pizza, and Cajun french fries.

- You go over the river,
through the woods, and
into the meadow to get
to Grandma's house.

Comma Practice

- Rub your belly, pat your head.
- Rub your belly if the sentence is correct.
 - Pat your head if it is not.

- When I was almost six and Jem was nearly ten our summertime boundaries were Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose's house to the north and the Radley Place to the south.

- Our mother died when I was two, so I never felt her absence.

- Maycomb was an old town but it was a tired old town when I first knew it.

Cry or Laugh

- Cry if the sentence is wrong.
- Laugh if the sentence is correct.

- Maycomb's people ambled across the square, shuffled in and out of the stores around it, and took their time about everything.

- When he was nearly thirteen my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow.

Maycomb, some
twenty miles east of
Finch's Landing, was
the county seat of
Maycomb County.

High Five, Low Five

- High five your neighbor if the sentence is correct.
- Low five your neighbor if the sentence is wrong.

- Aunt Rachel gave the money to Dill, who went to the picture show twenty times on it.

- Dill had seen *Dracula* a revelation that moved Jem to eye him with the beginning of respect.

- Thereafter, the summertime passed in routine contentment.

- People said that Boo Radley existed but Jem and I had never seen him.

Moo like a cow, Cluck like a
chicken

- Moo like a cow if the sentence is correct.
- Cluck like a chicken if it is not.

- Just
- Kidding!

Comma Practice

- The map is in the glove compartment under the seat or on the floor.
- My friend moved here from Mexico last year and she often misses her friends back home.
- Running and lifting weights every day Rey built up his endurance and strength.

- Feta cheese tastes wonderful on sandwiches in salads or crumbled on crackers.
- Jimmy Carter who was the thirty-ninth president of the United States was from Georgia.
- After we shared many interesting ideas, we came up with a plan.

- My cousins from Colombia are visiting us for two weeks so we are going to Disneyland.
- Nine pole-vaulters tried to clear the bar but only one succeeded.
- The football game that was on TV on Thanksgiving Day was as muddy as any I've ever seen.

Semicolons

- Use a semicolon to join two sentences that are close in meaning.

- Jem was the product of my parents' first year of marriage; four years later I was born.

- Calpurnia was all angles and bones; she was nearsighted; she squinted; her hand was wide as a bed slat and twice as hard.

- When you join sentences with a semicolon, the second sentence may begin with a logical connective. If so, use a comma after the logical connective.

- Little Chuck Little was another member of the population who didn't know where his next meal was coming from; **however**, he was born a gentleman.

- Jem and I were sometimes baffled by our father's last-will-and-testament diction; **however**, we were free to interrupt him for a translation.

Colons

- A colon should be used to introduce a list that comes at the end of a complete statement.

- When a colon introduces a list, the colon takes the place of the words “for example” or “such as.”

- Jose gave several reasons for staying in Dallas: the winter climate, his high salary, and his low mortgage rate.

- It takes a long time to become a doctor: four years of college, four years of medical school, and one or two more years of internship.

- Do not use a colon to introduce a list if the list follows the verb *to be* or a preposition.

- Mari's favorite foods are peanuts, pizza, and ice cream.
- Stephanie sent love letters to the mailman, the butcher, and her chiropractor.

- Use a colon to introduce a list after the words “the following.”

- My picks for best NBA players include **the following**: Kobe Bryant, Kevin Durant, Dwight Howard, Chris Paul, and Derrick Rose.

Practice on Commas, Semicolons, and Colons

Yo-yos have been enjoyed for years in fact people in ancient Greece played with toys like yo-yos for entertainment. In France the popularity of the yo-yo grew quickly for instance the nobles in seventeenth-century France played with yo-yos in the royal courts.

- Napoleon's soldiers played with them while waiting to fight and France's prisoners supposedly played with them while waiting for the guillotine. Even King George IV is pictured with a yo-yo a cartoonist satirically drew him spinning his top. In Europe they played with yo-yos but in the Philippines they used them for more serious purposes.

- In the Philippines they used them for more serious purposes. In the sixteenth century, the people of the Philippines hunted with yo-yo-like weapons they sat in trees and sent the yo-yos hurtling down to stun the animals below. In this way, they killed many animals for food squirrels, rabbits, and weasels.

CST Practice Questions

- Which of the following is the correct way to punctuate the following sentence?
- A. They recognize one another by sight smell, and voice.
- B. They recognize one another by sight, smell, and, voice.
- C. They recognize one another by, sight, smell, and voice.
- D. They recognize one another by sight, smell, and voice.

- What is the correct way to combine the following sentences?
- A. Success was instantaneous the theater was a favorite of audiences and actors alike.
- B. Success was instantaneous, and the theater was a favorite of audiences and actors alike.
- C. The theater was a favorite of audiences and actors alike because success was instantaneous.
- D. The theater was a favorite of audiences and actors alike, success was instantaneous.

Mexico, however, should also be mentioned in the same breath, thanks to the following artists Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros.

What is the correct punctuation of the underlined part of the sentence?

- A. artists: Diego Rivera
- B. artists; Diego Rivera
- C. artists. Diego Rivera
- D. artists, Diego Rivera

- Listeners used a primitive set of headphones, which were attached to the box with thin wire called cat whisker, to hear talk and music.
- What is the correct way to punctuate the underlined part of the sentence?
 - A. headphones, which were attached, to the box with thin wire, called *cat whisker*
 - B. headphones which were attached to the box, with thin wire, called *cat whisker*
 - C. headphones which were attached to the box, with thin wire called, *cat whisker*
 - D. Leave as is.

- *Young children love it when they have your full attention, and they listen to your every word which is why mentoring is so important.*
- Which is the correct way to punctuate the underlined part of the sentence?
 - A. word, which is why
 - B. word; which is why
 - C. word. Which is why
 - D. Leave as is.

- *Among the freshman student's first semester classes were; speech, creative writing, and weightlifting.*
- A. first semester classes were, speech,
- B. first semester classes, were; speech,
- C. first semester classes were speech,
- D. Leave as is.

- *Walt Disney was a true visionary: he believed, in building Disneyland long before anyone else.*

- A. visionary; he believed in building
- B. visionary, he believed in building
- C. visionary he believed in building
- D. Leave as is.

