

ASAC Writing Lab: Punctuation Exercises ANSWER KEY

Adapted from *Perdue Owl and Grammar Book.com*

I. Independent vs Dependent Clauses: Label the following clauses with an I or a D

1. in the oil fields of South Sudan **D**
2. the program runs easily. **I**
3. china is one of Sudan's greatest allies **I**
4. completely ignoring the other issues that fossil fuels in Sudan bring **D**
5. oil is not the mismanaged lifeblood of Sudan **I**
6. and it is easy to run **D**

II. Add a comma after the introductory phrase or prepositional phrase to correct the sentence.

1. To give Jane a good look at the university, Mr. Benson drove up for the Day on Campus.
2. Since the dog had started to run, a way to catch him had to be found.
3. Of course, the movie that I had rushed to see didn't start on time.
4. As I mentioned, the rules can be broken occasionally.
5. Having decided to eat only natural foods, he had to give up all of his favorite junk food snacks.
6. Making up his mind quickly, Jared ordered lasagna while we were still reading the menu.

III. Parenthetical Commas: Correct the sentence by adding commas around the nonessential element.

1. Patterson Tower, the recently completed office building, is a monument to concrete ugliness.
2. John decided, nonetheless, not to buy the car.
3. The Mississippi River, which once flowed north into Hudson Bay, flows south into the Gulf of Mexico.
4. Your cat, watching the dog intently, walked carefully away.
5. TV commercials, sometimes the most entertaining parts of a program, are essentially flashy corporate propaganda.
6. The dam project, which many in the government consider to be a sign of national strength, will destroy hundreds of villages and vast areas of wildlife habitat along the river banks.

IV. Add a comma after a transitional element to correct the sentence. Remember not to cut the prepositional phrase in half if there is one!

1. However, Mike arrived too late.
2. On the other hand, she doesn't mind cooking.
3. Although the book is difficult to read, it is very interesting.
4. Therefore, he will not be here today
5. If you really want to get a good grade this semester, however, you must complete all assignments, attend class, and study your notes
6. However you look at it, the argument is unsound.

IV. Punctuate the following sentences. *Punctuation goes inside quotes but outside parenthetical citations.*

1. "No," she said. Anne replied, saying, "I will be back this afternoon."
2. He explains that "local realities are translated into global concepts and, in return, global concepts come to weigh on local realities they are supposed to encompass" (Smith 185).
3. Smith said his trip was prevented when the conflict became, as he described it, "a political dispute among political rivals."
4. It lowers the crime and violence of a society at large (Sharp 137).

V. Fix the comma splice: use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*and, but, or, for, nor, so*) **to join the 2 independent clauses.**

1. Nonviolent movements have been growing in strength since the work of Mahatma Gandhi, **and** these empirical examples of success back up the ideals of nonviolence.
2. The fair was closing early tonight, **so** we decided to go home early.
3. Alice wanted to go to the store, **but** I wanted to stay at home and online shop.
4. Nonviolent movements leverage the force of the many against the few, **or** as Sharp puts it, "government is dependent on the people's goodwill."
5. Thus, nonviolent movements require solidarity to successfully challenge power structures, **and** acceptance of the risks must be sustained throughout the entire movement.

VI. Correct the sentence by adding a semicolon or a colon.

Tip: it is preferable to use a semicolon before, and a comma after, introductory words or phrases when they introduce a complete sentence. Use a colon when an independent clause is followed by a list or quotation directly related.

1. It takes action to dismantle power structures in order to peacefully address issues; as Wein says, nonviolent movements destroy the foundations of the pyramid of power in a society.
2. You asked for forgiveness; he granted it to you.
3. Nonviolence is more than just a pragmatic tool of pacifists, Wein explains that it is: "a principle, a moral philosophy, a political strategy, a methodology, and a way of life for resolving conflict".
4. The support and participation of members is vital to nonviolent movements; similarly, both the resistance movement and the group in power rely on the sympathy and support of the general public.
5. She has three dogs: two poodles and a beagle.