Name:

Date:

Comma Practice

Complete the sentences below by correctly inserting commas and semi-colons.

1. Andrew Mark and Eric all play on the varsity basketball team.

2. Monica was very disappointed in her performance she was never the less a gracious loser.

3. Although I have never been to Mexico I have always wanted to travel there.

4. Jason who is the youngest in the family was born August 12 1988.

5. Alisson didn't feel well however she came to school anyway.

6. It was a hot windy day but I still spent the afternoon working in the garden.

7. When she asked if he was hungry Joe replied "I'm starved"

8. I planted shade evergreen and flowering trees short tall and medium shrubs and red yellow and white roses.

9. Although Erica was exhausted after her cross-country meet she never the less got up early the next morning.

10. Robin wanted to stay however she knew her parents would not like it if she did.

11. Heather enrolled in calculus French history and AP English.

12. Mr. Thomas glanced at Mike who appeared to be sleeping and said "I sure hope I'm not keeping any of you up past your bedtimes."

13. The Silver Maple is a tall graceful tree but its wood is soft and it is susceptible to wind damage.

14. During the last three summers Juan has worked at Burger King Wendy's and Sears.

15. Kendra never liked dogs she preferred to own a cat.

Comma Rules:

1. FANBOYS: Use a comma before the conjunction (for, and, nor, buy, or, yet, so) that joins the two independent clauses in a compound sentence.

Examples: I like working outside**,** **and** I also enjoy reading.

He got out of school early**, so** he took a nap.

2. Use a comma after relatively lengthy introductory phrases or dependent (subordinate) clauses. **It is important to note that a comma should not be used when the clause or phrase comes at the end of the sentence as illustrated by the second example.**

Examples: After she learned the rules for using commas, her grades improved.   
  Her grades improved after she learned to use commas correctly.

3. Use commas to separate items in a series. Be sure to insert a comma before the conjunction that precedes the last item unless your teacher or style manual specifically tells you to exclude them.

Example: Amy ordered two hamburgers, a Coke, and a large order of fries.

4. Use commas before and after non-essential elements (parts of the sentence providing information that is not essential in order to understand its meaning).

Example: Ms. Kelley’s class, the best class on campus, always uses commas correctly.

5. Use commas between coordinate adjectives (of equal importance) that modify the same noun. Do not separate adjectives of unequal importance. A good way to determine if the adjectives are of equal importance is to reverse them in the sentence. If the sentence does not read well after the reversal, do not use a comma between them. The second example below clearly illustrates this point. Reversing the adjectives (blue big eyes or red bright hair) simply doesn't work!

Examples: By the end of the game, the field was a slippery, wet mess.

                   Her big blue eyes and bright red hair made her strikingly beautiful.

6. Use commas to separate the elements of dates and places.

Examples: The date was June 12, 1999.  
                   He was born in St. Cloud, Minnesota.   
    
7. Use a comma before a direct quotation. Also, as shown in the example, commas (and periods as well) go inside the quotation marks.

Example: When asked if he had studied for the test, Paul replied, "Only a little," and his grade showed it!   
    
8. Use commas before and after words and phrases like however and never the less that serve as interrupters.

Example: Adam did not like math.  He was, however, very successful in his math classes.