

**YEAR 8**

Sentences and Punctuation

Three parts that get harder: a warm-up, where you should be now, then a stretch. Write the letter of the right option, or a number where one is asked for. Every question has exactly one right answer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

A. Warm-up

A sentence needs a subject and a verb and must make sense on its own.

- 1 Which is a complete sentence?
 - (a) The dog barked at the postman.
 - (b) Barking at the postman.
 - (c) Because the dog barked.
 - (d) The dog at the postman.
- 2 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
 - (a) I like tea but, my sister prefers coffee.
 - (b) I like tea, but my sister prefers coffee.
 - (c) I like, tea but my sister prefers coffee.
 - (d) I like tea but my sister, prefers coffee.
- 3 Which shows a bag belonging to ONE girl?
 - (a) the girls' bag
 - (b) the girls bag
 - (c) the girl's bag
 - (d) the girl's' bag

- 4 Which is a **compound** sentence (two main clauses joined by and, but, or, so)?
- (a) I went to bed.
 - (b) Because I was tired, I went to bed.
 - (c) Tired and sleepy.
 - (d) I was tired, so I went to bed.
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- 5 Which uses *its* correctly?
- (a) The dog wagged its tail.
 - (b) The dog wagged it's tail.
 - (c) Its raining again.
 - (d) Its' tail was wagging.
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B. Where you should be now

A comma cannot join two sentences on its own. Use a full stop, a semicolon or a joining word.

- 6 Which is a **complex** sentence (a main clause and a subordinate clause)?
- (a) Everyone rushed outside.
 - (b) When the bell rang, everyone rushed outside.
 - (c) The bell rang and everyone rushed outside.
 - (d) The bell. Everyone outside.
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- 7 Which sentence contains a **comma splice** (two sentences wrongly joined by a comma)?
- (a) It was late, so we went home.
 - (b) Because it was late, we went home.
 - (c) It was late, we went home.
 - (d) It was late; we went home.
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- 8 Which is the best way to fix: *The film was long, I fell asleep.*
- (a) The film was long, I, fell asleep.
 - (b) The film, was long I fell asleep.
 - (c) The film was long I fell asleep.
 - (d) The film was long, so I fell asleep.
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- 9 Which shows a bag belonging to TWO girls?
- (a) the girls' bag
 - (b) the girl's bag
 - (c) the girls bag
 - (d) the girls's bag
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- 10 Which is punctuated correctly?
- (a) "Wait for me" shouted Leo.
 - (b) "Wait for me," shouted Leo.
 - (c) "Wait for me," Shouted Leo.
 - (d) Wait for me, "shouted Leo."
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- 11 Which needs NO apostrophe?
- (a) Sam's coat is red.
 - (b) I can't come today.
 - (c) The apples are £1 each.
 - (d) It's raining.
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C. Stretch

Writers choose sentence lengths and punctuation for effect, not just for correctness.

- 12 When should you start a new paragraph in a story?
- (a) After every three sentences
 - (b) Only when the page is full
 - (c) Whenever you use a comma
 - (d) When the time, place, topic or speaker changes
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- 13 Which sentence uses a colon correctly?
- (a) I knew one thing for certain: we were lost.
 - (b) I knew: one thing for certain we were lost.
 - (c) I knew one: thing for certain we were lost.
 - (d) I: knew one thing for certain we were lost.
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- 14 Which sentence uses a semicolon correctly?
- (a) The house; was silent nobody was home.
 - (b) The house was silent; nobody was home.
 - (c) Because the house was silent; nobody was home.
 - (d) The house was; silent nobody was home.
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- 15 Why might a writer put a very short sentence after several long ones?
- (a) To save space on the page
 - (b) Because short sentences are always better
 - (c) To create impact or tension
 - (d) To make the paragraph longer
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- 16 Which sentence is written in the **passive**?
- (a) The storm smashed the window.
 - (b) The storm is smashing the window.
 - (c) The storm had smashed the window.
 - (d) The window was smashed by the storm.
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