**Conventions 9: Commas for Items in a Series and Introductory Phrases; Spelling: Separate**

**I. Commas for items in a series**

**Use commas to separate three or more items in a series: “I write poems, plays, and short stories.”**

**“Did you eat breakfast, lunch, or dinner?”**

**(Newspaper reporters don’t use the comma after “plays” or “lunch” above, but ACADEMIC WRITING REQUIRES THAT SECOND COMMA.)**

**Do not use commas to separate two items in a series:**

**“I write poems and plays.”**

**“Did you eat breakfast or lunch?”**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**II. Commas after introductory phrases**

**Use commas after introductory phrases:**

**“After eating dinner, I went to bed.”**

**“Well, how often can you work?  
 “In fact, you were late to class.”**

**Note: It is possible to have two--or even three--introductory phrases, one after the other:**

**When I asked my dad what time it was, he said,**

**“Well, it’s around three.”**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**(There are other times we use commas, too, but those are covered in Conventions 10.)**

**Spelling: SEPARATE**

**The Case for the Oxford Comma (the comma that should separate the last two items in a list is called the “Oxford Comma”):**



**ELMO Practice: Insert commas where necessary.**

**1. After school today I went to the gym to the bank and to the store.**

**2. Although I didn’t eat much last night I still wasn’t very hungry this morning or tonight.**

**3. Last night I went to bed closed my eyes and counted sheep.**

**4. For example when I said “ You’re late ” he didn’t even look at me talk to me or stop walking.**

**5. In fact you should approach the teacher make eye contact and apologize for being late.**

**Good or bad in academic writing?**

**Nowadays, I get more exercise.**

**All in all, our school should require uniforms.**

**Conventions 9: Commas separating items in a series, commas after introductory phrases, and spelling: separate**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Conventions Workshop: Commas Separating Items in a Series**

Use commas to separate three or more items in a series: “I walked, skipped, and ran to school.”

**Directions: Insert commas where necessary.**

1. The American flag is red white and blue.

2. Orange yellow and blue are my favorite colors.

3. I stopped looked and listened to the television yesterday.

4. After school will you go home go to practice or go to a friend’s house?

5. In fact I plan to arrive on time take some pictures and rush home.

6. Write a sentence requiring commas to separate items in a series.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. “Nowadays” = GOOD BAD (circle one) in academic writing

8. “All in all” = GOOD BAD (circle one) in academic writing

**Conventions Workshop: Commas After Introductory Phrases**

Use commas after introductory phrases like “however,” “in fact,” “for example,” and “He said, ...”

**Insert commas where necessary.**

9. She said “The American flag is red white and blue.”

10. In fact orange yellow and blue are my favorite colors.

11. However I stopped looked and listened to the television yesterday.

12. In other words after lunch will you go to school to work or to your house?

13. He said “Well I plan to arrive on time take some pictures and rush home.”

14. Write a sentence with an introductory phrase and three items in a series.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

More on back side ……………………………..

**Insert commas where necessary.**

15. However I don’t like the colors brown and pink.

16. When are we going to go to the park the library or the movie theater?

17. Well I guess we’ll have to wait until tomorrow to run jump and yell.

18. Write a sentence with this week’s spelling word (the opposite of “together”) and TWO items in a series.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

19. Write a sentence with words that include “psych” and “proto.” Do NOT use “psychiatry” or “prototype.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

20. Write a sentence with words that include “pre” and “port.” Do NOT use “pre-test” or “transport.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

21. Write a sentence with words that include “poly” and “pod.” Do NOT use “polygon” or “podiatry.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

22. When are your Roots 9 and Conventions 9 quizzes?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Conventions 9 Review: (Students transcribe):

**1) Did you separate the fresh eggs from the moldy bread, sour milk, and rotten fruit?**

**2) Please make separate piles of moldy bread and rotten fruit.**

**3) In fact, we had math, English, and history yesterday.**

**4) No matter how late it is, don’t forget to lock the door and brush your teeth.**

**5) psych = MIND**

**6) proto = FIRST**

**7) pseudo = FAKE**

**8) pro = FOR**

**9) pre = BEFORE**

**10) post = AFTER**

**11) port = CARRY**

**12) poly = MANY**

**13) polis = CITY**

**14) pod / ped = FOOT / FEET**

Students correct their own. Reminder: Quizzes R 9 and C 9 next time.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (first and last names)

**Conventions Quiz 9**

Directions: *Fill in the blanks* with the correct word or punctuation. Do NOT simply circle the answer.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ standing over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ aren’t listening.

to / two / too woman / women there / they’re / their

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ clear that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ just texting each other.

Its / It’s there /they’re/ their

3. My friends and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ see many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ like that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I / me woman / women everyday / every day

4. I wish we had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ten quizzes in this class.

less / fewer than / then

5. One day, my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ made cookies for my friend Troy and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

dad / Dad I / me

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ much butter can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the cookies, but the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ isn’t bad.

To / Two / Too effect/affect effect/affect

7. My cookie didn’t have much chocolate yesterday, but I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ eat it, anyway.

choose/chose to/two/too

8. Did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cookie \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ flavor, or was it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

your / you’re lose / loose its / it’s alright / all right

9. The cookies were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be baked, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we had to wait for the oven.

already / all ready than / then

10. My \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ refuses to eat \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of cookies.

mom / Mom woman / women that / who alot / a lot

11. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a person \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rarely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Your / You’re whose / who’s defiant/definite principle / principal

12. They are wearing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ uniforms, but they

there/they’re/their everyday / every day

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ worn something special, instead.

could have / could of

**Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 34**

13. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are the pants that aren’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Were / Where to/two/too lose / loose

14. Mom, when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sure about having kids?

were/where dad / Dad defiantly / definitely

15. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ water bottle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ water in it?

Who’s/Whose already / all ready less / fewer

16. Do you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the mission \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you’ve been given?

chose / choose except / accept who / that

17. I’ve read all of your answers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that one, and I think \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

except / accept its/it’s alright / all right

18. “Nowadays” in formal, academic writing = Good Bad (circle one)

19. “All in all” in formal, academic writing = Good Bad (circle one)

20. “You” in academic writing = Good Bad (circle one)

21. Next year, I’ll go to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, where I’ll show everyone the beautiful

collage / college

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of photos I made in art class.

collage / college

22. Few people have perfect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , but at least I can

gramer / grammer / gramar / grammar

spell \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ,

beggining/begining/beginning/begginning adres/addres/address

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

nesessary/nesessary/necessary/necesary lisense/license/lisence/licence

23. I’ve made a firm \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

comitment / commitment / committment seprate / seperate / separate

words in phrases like “a lot” from now on because if I don’t, I’ll get

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

embarased / embbarased / embarrased / embarrassed

**Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 28**

Punctuate the sentences by adding commas where needed. **Make your punctuation obvious**.

23. At first I didn’t like to read long poems and boring stories.

24. Well I finally began to like writing plays poems and stories.

25. I said “Tom will you read books to me and write stories

for your mom dad and kids?”

26. Pretend the power went out at HRVHS, so you’ve been given an unexpected day free from school. Write a paragraph about what you’d do with your day off. Focus on using correct conventions, but you don’t have to use any specific concepts from this packet. I’ll mark everything that’s wrong, but I’ll only take points away for concepts we have discussed.

Your paragraph must be at least **SIX** sentences long.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Read over your paragraph and make any necessary changes before handing it in.**

**Conventions 9 Quiz: Punctuation (Review / Correction)**

**23. At first I didn’t like to read long poems and boring stories.**

**24. Well I finally began to like writing plays poems and stories.**

**25. I said “Tom will you read books to me and write stories for your mom dad and kids?”**