Coach Whitlow

English Assignment Packet

**Assignment 1**- Use a dictionary and choose 10 words on your own. You will locate and write down the word, its parts of speech, its pronunciation and its definition. An example is as follows:

**Football (word)**

[**noun**](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/noun) **(part of speech)**

foot·​ball | \ ˈfu̇t-ˌbȯl (pronunciation)  \

**Definition of *football***

**1:**any of several games played between two teams on a usually rectangular field having goalposts or goals at each end and whose object is to get the ball over a goal line, into a goal, or between goalposts by running, passing, or kicking.

**Assignment 2-** Oxymoron (figure of speech) Use the following notes on the term “oxymoron” and complete the practice activity (examples are included).

Notes: An oxymoron is a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction. Two opposites are joined to create an effect. Example: cruel kindness or living death.

Practice: Underline the oxymoron in the following sentences.

Example: The original copies were on my desk.

1. I am clearly confused about the test.
2. The small crowd gathered in the park for the rally.
3. The open secret kept me waiting in suspense.
4. The tragic comedy was very entertaining to watch.
5. That incident was seriously funny.
6. I’m having an awfully pretty afternoon.

**Assignment 3-** Use the following notes on independent and dependent clauses to complete the practice exercise. Examples are included.

Notes: **Is It an Independent Clause or a Dependent Clause?**

An independent, or coordinate, clause is a clause that expresses a complete thought and can stand alone.

A dependent, or subordinate, clause is a clause that does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone.

**Curt called his father who was still at work.**

In the example *Curt called his father* is an independent clause. It would be a complete sentence without anything else added to it. The clause *who was still at work* is a dependent clause. It does not express a complete thought and is not a complete sentence.

Practice: Below are sentences with a clause underlined. In the blank below the sentence, write whether the underlined clause is independent or dependent.

1. The teacher who lives next door to Rob is Mrs. Johnson. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Our dog will run away if the gate is left open. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Because the storm knocked out the power, school will be canceled on Thursday.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. This is the homework assignment that you missed last week. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. The movie was good although it was too long. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. Victoria heard what her sister said, but she ignored it. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. The moon shone on the ocean while the whales rose to the surface. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. At the end of his class, Jim walked to his locker where the coach was waiting. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment 4-** Use the following notes on colons and semicolons and complete the practice that follows. Examples are provided.

Semicolons and Colons

A semicolon is a form of punctuation that sorts out complex lists or links complete clauses.

Sorting out a complex list:  
•Place semicolons between items in lists if some items the list include commas.

o My classmates are from Milwaukee, Wisconsin; St. Paul, Minnesota; Des Moines, Iowa; and Detroit, Michigan.

o Our good time at the fair included making a Spin-a-Paint masterpiece; going to the art show, where my mother’s ceramic vase won a ribbon; visiting the animal barns; and eating a honey sundae, an onion blossom, and, of course, mini doughnuts.

Linking closely-related independent clauses:  
•Place a semicolon between two independent clauses (they could stand alone as a sentence) to link them in the same sentence.

o I don’t have time to practice fiddling; my school work is too demanding.  
o It looks like it is going to rain; I better bring my umbrella.  
o When going to school in St. Paul, Minnesota, I lived in an off-campus apartment complex; my next-door neighbor became my best friend.

Linking complete clauses with a conjunctive adverb:  
•Place a semicolon between independent clauses linked with a conjunctive adverb, also known as a transitional word or phrase. Some common conjunctive adverbs are therefore, however, consequently, and hence. Phrases include on the other hand, in fact, and in conclusion. Follow transitional words or phrases with commas.

o It looks like it might rain; however, the weather report suggests sunshine all day. o I don’t have time to practice before the concert; in fact, I hardly have enough time to change into my concert outfit.

Colons (:)

A colon is a form of punctuation used in several different situations. It often sets up and draws the reader’s attention to the ideas that come after it.

Some correct uses: •Prior to a list

o Our girls softball team will play the following rivals: Aberdeen, Fort Hays State, Arkansas-Monticello, and Southwestern Oklahoma State.

•Before an explanation that has a complete clause (could be a sentence) before it o There was only one priority left for me to see to: finishing my homework.

•To separate an independent clause from a quotation  
o My baseball coach loves to use the same phrase before every practice and game:

“Shut up and play baseball.”

•In a formal or business address o Dear Ms. Jackson:

•To indicate time  
o The train leaves at 3:47 p.m.

•Between a title and subtitle  
o The textbook for our class is called Ideas across Time: Classic and Contemporary

Readings for Composition.  
o The movie I liked best last year was Impossible Journey: Never Say Never.

•A scripture reference  
o Indicate the book of Luke, chapter 4, verse 7, like this: Luke 4:7.  
o Indicate the chapter of Sura, title 1, verse 6, in the Qur’an like this: Sura 1:6.

•To indicate a ratio  
o The ratio of cats to dogs was 4:1.

Practice Exercises

For each sentence, select the punctuation mark from the choices inside the parentheses by circling the correct answer.

1. The defendant failed to check his rear-view mirror before changing lanes (, / ; /:) therefore ( , / ; /:) he breached a duty owed to the plaintiff.
2. There are two kinds of fruit on the table (no punctuation needed / : / ; ) oranges and apples.
3. I have a lot to do today (no punctuation needed / , / : / ; ) study for my test( : / ; / , ) do my laundry( : / ; / , ) both lights and darks( : / ; / , ) wash the car ( : / ; / , ) and call my mom.
4. Zach came to class breathless and overwhelmed ( : / ; / , ) he had just come from volleyball practice.
5. The Europe trip will include visits to (no punctuation needed/ , / ; /:) London( , / ; ) England ( , / ; ) Rome( , / ; ) Italy ( , / ; ) Paris( , / ; ) France ( , / ; ) Munich( , / ; ) Germany ( , / ; ) and Warsaw( , / ; ) Poland.
6. The book was written by (no punctuation needed / , / : ) Peter Jay Montreville.
7. He was very tired (no punctuation needed / , / ; ) but he decided to go to class rather than take a nap.
8. He was very tired however he decided his class was too important to miss.
9. The tables had wonderful decorations (no punctuation needed / , / ; / : ) flowers( , / ; ) balloons( , / ; ) confetti( , / ; ) ribbons( , / ; ) and marble birds.
10. We discussed the Torah’s Behar (Leviticus 25(:/,)1-26(:/,) The Joy of Opportunity.
11. The colors of the banner are (no punctuation needed / , / : ) blue, red, yellow, and black.
12. The lunchroom was decorated with (no punctuation needed/ , / ; /:) balloons ( , / ; ) red ( , / ; ) yellow ( , / ; ) and black streamers ( , / ; ) and glow-in-the-dark stars.
13. The play was excellent ( , / : / ; ) the actors were lively (no punctuation needed/ , / ; /:) and the set was phenomenal.
14. The first book he cited in his paper was Understanding Comics (no punctuation needed / , / : / ; ) The Invisible Art.
15. Her purse held many items (no punctuation needed / , / : ) including (no punctuation needed / , / : ) chapstick, money, a cell phone, cough drops, chopsticks, and some pens.
16. It was the first of May ( , / ; ) all the spring buds on the trees were starting to open.
17. It rained heavily during the afternoon ( , / ; / : ) however ( , / ; / : ) we managed to have our picnic anyway.

**Assignment 5-** Use the following notes on literature point of view. Choose one type of point of view and write a 2 paragraph short story on any school appropriate topic using that point of view. For examples: You could write a very short story about a fictional hero saving the day.

Types of point of view-

**First person point of view.** First person is when “I” am telling the story. The character is *in*the story, relating his or her experiences directly.

**Second person point of view.** The story is told to “you.” This POV is not common in fiction, but it’s still good to know (it *is*common in nonfiction).

**Third person point of view, limited.** The story is about “he” or “she.” This is the most common point of view in commercial fiction. The narrator is outside of the story and relating the experiences of a character.

**Third person point of view, omniscient**. The story is still about “he” or “she,” but the narrator has full access to the thoughts and experiences of *all*characters in the story.

**Assignment 6-** Use the following notes about noun phrases and complete the practice. Examples are included.

Notes: A noun phrase is a word or group of words that functions in a sentence as subject, object, or prepositional object.

Remember a noun is a person, place or thing\* so look for nouns and the words that follow them.

Example: Current economic weakness may be a result of high energy prices.

Practice: Underline each noun phrase in the following sentences.

1. He wished to talk to his manger.
2. The wicked man loves getting poor people into trouble.
3. The poor man wanted to pay back every penny he owed.
4. He hates having to punish his servants.
5. Horses prefer living in dark stables.
6. I will never do such a thing.
7. Have you ever tried to climb a tree?
8. He refused to answer my question.
9. He promised to get me something.
10. Why do you want to meet him?