

Key

LEVEL 1 - NON-ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS (WORDS & PHRASES)

Directions: **Read** and **evaluate** the given sentences. **Identify** and **add** commas to separate the non-essential elements from the rest of the sentence.

1. Patterson Tower the recently completed office building is a monument to concrete ugliness.
2. John decided nonetheless not to buy the car.
3. Your cat watching the dog intently walked carefully away.
4. TV commercials sometimes the most entertaining parts of a program are essentially flashy corporate propaganda.
5. The free-jazz musician Sun Ra claimed to be from Saturn.
6. Reynold Price a Rhode's scholar published his first novel in 1962.
7. The student known for his computer skills will assume the responsibility for the computer lab.
↑ NO commas needed here b/c all information is essential to finding out what student.
8. The Georgia Institute of Technology a part of the state's university system is located in Atlanta, Georgia.
9. Dr. Williams a professor of meteorology believes that some forecasts of global warming are exaggerated.
10. Eugene O'Neill a twentieth-century dramatist used his plays to explain his life.
11. Herman Melville's novel Billy Budd was made into a movie.
12. My truck an old and rusty jalopy is the only transportation I have.
13. Anne Rivers Siddon an Atlanta author will be at the Oxford Bookstore this afternoon.
14. The neighbors however never received their Christmas packages.
15. The insects squirming and crawling infiltrated the house.

LEVEL 2 - NON-ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS (WORDS & PHRASES)

Directions: Underline the appositive or appositive phrase in each sentence. Then in the blank indicate with E or N whether the underlined segment is essential or nonessential.

1. O. Henry, an author whose real name was William Sydney Porter, became famous.

NE

2. In his story "One Thousand Dollars," he presents an interesting dilemma.

N

3. Gillian, the hero of the story, does not know how to spend his inheritance.

NE

4. His friend Bryson sighed when Gillian approached him.

N

5. Bryson's suggestion, one full of sarcasm, did not really help.

NE

Directions: Below are sentences that contain nonessential participial phrases. Select the appropriate punctuation for the underlined portion.

1. The turtle's upper **shell, called the carapace, functions** as a protection against prey.

A shell called the carapace functions

B shell, called the carapace functions

C shell called the carapace, functions

D No change.

2. The common **cockroach associated with disease** runs away when exposed to light.

A cockroach, associated with disease runs

B cockroach associated with disease, runs

C cockroach, associated with disease, runs

D No change.

3. The typical **cockroach, nauseating to home owners**, lives for about a year.

A cockroach nauseating to home owners

B cockroach, nauseating to home owners

C cockroach nauseating to home owners,

D No change.

4. **Parrots considered the most intelligent of birds** can mimic human speech.

A Parrots, considered the most intelligent of birds can

B Parrots, considered the most intelligent of birds, can

C Parrots considered the most intelligent of birds, can

D No change.

LEVEL 3 - NON-ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS (WORDS & PHRASES)

DIRECTIONS: Use your notes to help you! **Place commas** in the following sentences. Then **categorize** the following sentences as essential or nonessential. If you get stuck, ask yourself the questions listed below.

>>Does this information change the meaning of the sentence, or does it simply add more detail?
>>Would the sentence make sense if this information were missing?

1. My son the policeman will be visiting us next week. Non Ess.
2. Mrs. Sears showing more bravery than wisdom hosted her daughter's birthday party. Non Ess.
3. The ship's carpenters assembled the dinghy a large rowboat last night. Ess.
4. The student left in charge of the class was unable to keep order. Ess.
5. Walter attached to his mother enjoys being spoiled. Non Ess.

DIRECTIONS: Insert the commas into the following sentences. Then, identify if the nonessential is an **appositive** or a **participial**.

6. Paul Newman one of the greatest actors directed only one picture. appositive
7. Elizabeth Teague a sweet and lovable girl grew up to be a successful woman. appositive
8. Karen's father starting out as an army officer was frequently transferred. participle
9. Applicants must investigate colleges learning as much as possible before applying. participle
10. The crying boy angered by the bully began to fight. participle

DIRECTIONS: Use your notes to help you! Identify nonessential appositives and nonessential participials in the following paragraph. ***These elements might be in the form of Intro Elements!**

Standing on the edge of the darkened corner Louie hesitated. He was late again, and he knew his mom would take away his cell phone if he came home late one more time. Louie glanced over at the house of Mr. Nelson the next door neighbor. He would have to creep under Mr. Nelson's window to sneak in his own house. Louie pulled his hoodie over his head, and he started tiptoeing home. Ducking under Mr. Nelson's window he heard a low growl, a dull thunk, and a sharp, muffled cry. Louie froze. He never liked Mr. Nelson a cop who always had an angry look on his face. Louie waited until he heard Mr. Nelson's footsteps move away from the window before sneaking around to the backdoor of his own house. Walking in the back door Louie wondered what Mr. Nelson had been doing.

LEVEL 4 - NON-ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS (WORDS & PHRASES)

Directions: Using the given theme, create sentences following the given guidelines.

Theme: Holiday Break

1. Sentence with an introductory word

Yesterday, we were still on break.

2. Sentence with a nonessential word

We, however, came to school today. ☹️

3. Sentence with an introductory participle (+ING or +ED)

Sleeping in everyday, I was able to relax.

4. Sentence with a nonessential participial phrase (+ING or +ED)

I, rested and recharged, relaxed everyday.

5. Sentence with a nonessential appositive

My mom, a nice, 56 year old woman, cries everytime I come home for the holidays.

Directions: Given the sample paragraph below, re-write to make it more exciting, using the following non essential elements: **word, appositive, participle**

The plumber rang the doorbell. Ms. Smith came to the door. The plumber listened to her complaints. The plumber went to work.

The plumber, a tall, lanky man, rang the doorbell. Ms. Smith, quickly, came to the door. The plumber, using his patience, listened to her complaints. The plumber, then, went to work.

LEVEL 5 - NON-ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

Directions: If you have mastered a basic sentence, you can definitely create a masterful sentence, rich with description. You can do so by adding nonessential information between the subject and verb of your sentence.

Ex: Her hair made a light-blonde crown.

Her hair, **braided and wrapped around her head**, made a light-blonde crown.

With the given sentence, you will add information to create a Subject - Verb Split.

Given Sentence: Lauren studied for the test.

1. Split with a word (adjective or adverb)

Lauren, suddenly, studied for the test (adv).

Lauren, sweet and innocent, studied for the test (adj)

2. Split with an appositive (extra description about the subject)

Lauren, a hardworking student, studied for the test.

3. Split with a present participle (verb + ING)

Lauren, panicking about her grades, studied for the test.

4. Split with a past participle (verb + ED)

Lauren, faced with the thought of summer school, studied for her test.

5. Split with a prepositional phrase (gives non essential info about the subject)

Lauren, at her desk full of papers and notes, studied for the test.