

109 USING PERIODS

A period indicates the end of a sentence or an abbreviation.

Use a period to end a declarative sentence—a sentence of fact or opinion. Use a period to end most imperative sentences—sentences that give directions or commands. Use a period to end a sentence that contains an indirect question. Use a period after most abbreviations and initials.

- Declarative Sentence: The basketball game is tonight.
- Imperative Sentence: Close the windows.
- Indirect Question: Alexis asked me if I would help.
- Abbreviations: Mrs. M.D. Corp. Sr. Wed.
- Initials: Robert E. Lee C. S. Lewis J. D. Winters

Practice A Adding Periods

Read each sentence. Then, add periods where they are needed. Circle each period you add.

Example: Prof L Smith is teaching history at the college

Answer: Prof_o L_o Smith is teaching history at the college_o

1. The law firm handling the case is D.L.Roberts, Ltd.
2. Mr.Towers asked me if I had done my homework.
3. Emily lives at 4404 Oak St.
4. Rep.Matthews is in Springfield campaigning for re-election.
5. Please speak to Col.Woods about the decision.
6. Bill Martin, Jr., writes books for children.
7. Don't do it, K.C.
8. Olivia asked Kyle if he had seen Dr.Moore yet.
9. See that your name is on your paper.
10. Ms.Foster is in charge of the science fair.

Practice B Using Periods

Read each sentence. Then, on the line, write it correctly, adding periods.

Example: I asked Mrs Roberts why my grade was so low

Answer: I asked Mrs. Roberts why my grade was so low.

1. Please take Benjamin to the park. _____
2. Morgan is going with us to the P.O. _____
3. My cousin W.T.lives in St Paul, Minnesota. _____
4. Mrs.Dylan told us about Rev.Martin Luther King, Jr. _____
5. Don't touch the hot stove. _____
6. Go to the mall and you will find H.A.Beck, Co. _____
7. Gov.Peters will sign the bill. _____
8. My best friends, James and P.J. are here. _____
9. Dad has a B.A.degree in history. _____
10. The party will be on Dec. 5 at 303 Main St. _____

Writing and Speaking Application

Write directions from your home to a favorite store. Use two kinds of sentences and at least one abbreviation. Then, find a partner and take turns reading your directions. Your partner should listen for and tell where you used periods. Then, switch with your partner.

Name _____ Date _____

113 AVOIDING COMMA SPLICES

A comma splice occurs when two or more sentences have been joined with only a comma between them.

Avoid comma splices by making sure all of your ideas are properly linked.

INCORRECT: We went by plane, it was my first flight across the country.

CORRECT: We went by plane. It was my first flight across the country.

Practice A Recognizing Comma Splices

Read each item. If the sentence is correct, write C on the line. If it has a comma splice, write I for incorrect. Then, circle the error.

Example: We got to the airport early, we had to wait two hours for our flight. _____

Answer: We got to the airport early, we had to wait two hours for our flight. I

- 1. The airport was crowded, a storm in Chicago closed the airport there. I
- 2. Dad put me in charge of getting a treat. My sister came with me to help. C
- 3. Finally our flight was called, we got in line to board. I
- 4. Three of our family sat in one row, two sat across the aisle. I
- 5. It was fun to see our city from the air, we could see all the highways. I
- 6. It took three hours to get from home to Portland, so I took a nap. C
- 7. My aunt and her family met us at the airport, my cousins had changed a lot. I
- 8. They said we changed too. It's been three years since we saw them. C
- 9. They took us downtown to the museum, we had lunch at a restaurant there. I
- 10. We wanted to stay longer, but we already had our return tickets. C

Practice B Rewriting Sentences

Read the sentences. Then, on the line provided, rewrite the sentence without using a comma splice.

Example: My aunt came to see us from New York City, she came by train.

Answer: My aunt came to see us from New York City. She came by train.

- 1. Aunt Terri invited us to visit her in New York, maybe we will go next summer.
_____ ,so
- 2. Mom wants to shop on Fifth Avenue, Dad wants to see Times Square.
_____ and
- 3. My older sister insists we see a Broadway play, she wants to decide which one!
_____ ,so
- 4. We will have to wait and see about the play, tickets are very expensive.
_____ . Tickets
- 5. I would like to see a baseball game, maybe the Yankees will be in town.
_____ . Maybe

Writing and Speaking Application

Write several sentences about a trip you want to take. Avoid comma splices. Take turns reading your sentences with a partner. Your partner should listen carefully and tell how many periods you wrote. Then, switch roles with your partner.