

WORKSHEET 4

Using Commas to Distinguish Essential from
Nonessential Clauses (Rule 12 i)

EXERCISE A Add commas where they are needed in the following sentences. If a sentence is correct, write C on the line provided.

EXAMPLES C 1. I have never known any other child who is as precocious as Jenny.

 2. Crater Lake, which is almost 2,000 feet deep, has no inlet or outlet.

1. Anthony who won the race became the first one in our class to receive a trophy.
2. My left ankle which I broke last winter is still too weak for track.
3. The teacher was annoyed when Hillary who lives right across the street from school was late.
4. The cats sitting in the window are called Tiger Lily and Sam.
5. Our City Hall which was built in 1912 is now too small.
6. Mahalia Jackson who grew up singing in a church choir became a famous gospel singer.
7. Children who get everything they want often appreciate nothing.
8. Anita who has no sense of humor couldn't see what made the joke funny.
9. Some people don't enjoy any game that they don't win.
10. Have you heard of Lorraine Hansberry who was a famous playwright?
11. Were Daniel's directions which were very brief clear to you?
12. Mark Twain who tried a dozen different types of jobs became a writer.
13. Few people who claim to be able to predict the future can actually do so.
14. Shakespeare's father who was a merchant in Stratford served for a time as "high bailiff," or mayor, of the town.
15. Have you listened to comedians who use satire to make fun of social customs?
16. Why didn't the Brahman suspect that the tiger which was in a cage was trying to trick him?
17. The *Titanic* which was the largest vessel of its time generated an enormous amount of publicity about its maiden voyage.
18. The author Doris Lessing grew up in the African country Zimbabwe which was then called Southern Rhodesia.
19. Did you know that the high-wire aerialist who is very talented has performed with the same group for ten years?
20. Evan's new job which is far more challenging than his previous job pays well and provides good benefits.

Continued 

EXERCISE B The subordinate clause in each of the following sentences is printed in italics. If the clause is essential, circle *E*. If the clause is nonessential, circle *N* and set the clause off with commas.

EXAMPLES *E* (N) 1. The Netherlands, *which has a low illiteracy rate*, has a high standard of living.

(E) *N* 2. Most sentences *that ask a question* require a question mark.

E *N* 1. I just finished reading Gary Soto's story "The Jacket" *which describes a painful time in his early life*.

E *N* 2. We need a girl *who can speak with a Southern accent* to play the part.

E *N* 3. The store pays the parking fee of any customer *who makes a purchase of twenty dollars or more*.

E *N* 4. It was the responsibility of Stacy Kerwin *who should have counted the tickets herself*.

E *N* 5. Ten points are given for any question *that stumps the experts*.

E *N* 6. Most of the things *that we worry about* never happen.

E *N* 7. We lived on Oxford Drive *which is close to the airport*.

E *N* 8. Any person *who was born on February 29* has a birthday only once every four years.

E *N* 9. Buffalo Bill *whose real name was William F. Cody* was a famous frontier scout.

E *N* 10. Many Scottish names begin with the prefix "Mac" *which means "the son of"*.

E *N* 11. Mrs. Milto is not a person *with whom you can argue*.

E *N* 12. Grasshoppers *which are one of our most destructive insect pests* can leap nearly twenty times the length of their bodies.

E *N* 13. We will usually accept harsh criticism from a person *whom we consider a true friend*.

E *N* 14. Cindy *who had struck out in the third inning* hit a long drive.

E *N* 15. Is it true that people *who are good at math* often make good scientists?

E *N* 16. The moon *which had been shining brightly* suddenly disappeared behind a heavy cloud.

E *N* 17. Britain *which was busy with a European war* paid little attention to the War of 1812 until Napoleon was defeated.

E *N* 18. "Green Willow" *which I am reading for English class* is a Japanese folk tale.

E *N* 19. Michael Jordan is the athlete *whom I would most like to meet*.

E *N* 20. Many Arawaks died of diseases *that European explorers brought to the West Indies*.