

Commas that change the meaning

Page 1 of 3

SPaG: Punctuation · 10 questions

Answers are on the last page.

1 Which sentence means that ALL the books were overdue? Tick one.

- ☐ The books which were overdue, were returned.
- ☐ The books which were overdue were returned.
- ☐ The books, which were overdue, were returned.
- ☐ The books, which were overdue were returned.

2 Which sentence shows the writer has only one cousin? Tick one.

- ☐ My cousin who plays the cello, is coming to stay.
- ☐ My cousin, who plays the cello, is coming to stay.
- ☐ My cousin, who plays the cello is coming to stay.
- ☐ My cousin who plays the cello is coming to stay.

3 Which sentence tells us Elsie is a cousin? Tick one.

- ☐ Elsie, my youngest cousin won the poetry prize.
- ☐ Elsie, my youngest cousin, won the poetry prize.
- ☐ Elsie my youngest cousin won the poetry prize.
- ☐ Elsie my youngest cousin, won the poetry prize.

4 Which sentence lists three separate things to buy? Tick one.

- ☐ We bought bread rolls, and butter.
- ☐ We bought bread rolls and butter.
- ☐ We bought bread, rolls and butter.
- ☐ We bought, bread rolls and butter.

5 Which sentence is asking Yusuf for help? Tick one.

- ☐ Please, help me Yusuf.
- ☐ Please help, me Yusuf.
- ☐ Please help me Yusuf.
- ☐ Please help me, Yusuf.

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Page 2 of 3

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6 Which sentence means that ALL the runners were exhausted? Tick one.

- ☐ The runners who were exhausted finished the race.
- ☐ The runners who were exhausted, finished the race.
- ☐ The runners, who were exhausted, finished the race.
- ☐ The runners, who were exhausted finished the race.

7 Which sentence shows the writer has only one grandad? Tick one.

- ☐ My grandad, who is eighty still swims daily.
- ☐ My grandad who is eighty still swims daily.
- ☐ My grandad, who is eighty, still swims daily.
- ☐ My grandad who is eighty, still swims daily.

8 Which sentence tells us Amy is being spoken to? Tick one.

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| ☐ I know the answer Amy. | ☐ I, know the answer Amy. |
| ☐ I know the answer, Amy. | ☐ I know the, answer Amy. |

9 Which sentence tells us Kofi is the goalkeeper? Tick one.

- ☐ Kofi the goalkeeper, saved the penalty.
- ☐ Kofi the goalkeeper saved the penalty.
- ☐ Kofi, the goalkeeper, saved the penalty.
- ☐ Kofi, the goalkeeper saved the penalty.

10 Which sentence tells us the Severn is a river? Tick one.

- ☐ The Severn a long river, floods each winter.
- ☐ The Severn a long river floods each winter.
- ☐ The Severn, a long river floods each winter.
- ☐ The Severn, a long river, floods each winter.

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Commas that change the meaning: answers

Page 3 of 3

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Mark scheme

- 1 The books, which were overdue, were returned.
- 2 My cousin, who plays the cello, is coming to stay.
- 3 Elsie, my youngest cousin, won the poetry prize.
- 4 We bought bread, rolls and butter.
- 5 Please help me, Yusuf.
- 6 The runners, who were exhausted, finished the race.
- 7 My grandad, who is eighty, still swims daily.
- 8 I know the answer, Amy.
- 9 Kofi, the goalkeeper, saved the penalty.
- 10 The Severn, a long river, floods each winter.

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