

Take-Home Quiz for
“Ellipses, Apostrophes, Commas, & Hyphens”
By Barbara Westberg

- I. Write CORRECT or INCORRECT in the blank beside each example given for ellipses, apostrophes, commas, and hyphens.
- _____ 1) “But . . . but . . .,” Judith stammered.
_____ 2) Trying to keep up with the Jones’s is foolish.
_____ 3) The Williamses’ daughter is getting married soon.
_____ 4) James and John’s mother asked Jesus for a special favor.
_____ 5) James’s and John’s shoes were covered with mud.
_____ 6) Melinda learned her ABCs when she was three years old.
_____ 7) Our backyard is a haven for rabbits, squirrels, and skunks.
_____ 8) Nelda went to purchase a computer, but forgot to take her money.
_____ 9) Why, he wondered, had he and his brother always had a love-hate relationship?
_____ 10) He shuddered as he remembered the look of hate in his brother’s hate-filled eyes.
_____ 11) “Did he say ‘I don’t know’?”
_____ 12) Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near. . . . They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.
_____ 13) In the 50s poodle skirts were popular.
_____ 14) “Isn’t it enough that you are the best-loved son?”
_____ 15) Fire consumed the two-story building.
_____ 16) Even the simplest rules get complicated, because English language is complicated.
_____ 17) The fun-loving teacher won his students’ hearts.
_____ 18) The greatly admired pastor humbly followed God.
_____ 19) “Ouch!” is all Bryant intended to say about his throbbing toe . . . at that moment.
_____ 20) The students won the contest for the best-decorated door.
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- II. MATCHING - Write the letter of the correct choice in the blank beside each statement (definition or identifying point) below.
- a. comma b. hyphen c. ellipses d. apostrophe
- _____ 1) When the first of the compound words is clearly an adverb, the _____ usually is not necessary.
_____ 2) _____ a compound adjective when it included a participial form (-ing or -ed) and precedes the noun it modifies.
_____ 3) The _____ is the most misused and abused punctuation mark in the English language.
_____ 4) An _____ is never used to form the plural of a family name.
_____ 5) The possessive of most singular nouns is formed by adding an _____ and an s.
_____ 6) These suggest “faltering or fragmented speech accompanied by confusion, insecurity, distress, or uncertainty.”
_____ 7) Punctuation may be used on either side of the _____ dots if it helps the sense.
_____ 8) To avoid confusion, the plural of single lowercase letters is formed by adding an _____ before the s.
_____ 9) Use a _____ to separate complete thoughts joined by *and*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *but*.
_____ 10) Use a _____ in quotations.
_____ 11) Use a _____ to connect sound-effect words.
_____ 12) In informal contexts the first two digits of a particular year are often replaced by an _____.
_____ 13) Another name for this is “suspension points.”
_____ 14) The omission of a word, phrase, line, paragraph, or more from a quoted passage is also designated by these points or dots.
_____ 15) Use a _____ after introductory elements.
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- III. FILL IN THE BLANK with the correct punctuation mark needed or explained.
- _____ 1) The punctuation mark used to separate coequal words.
_____ 2) The mark used to separate independent adjectives.
_____ 3) Marks used between speech fragments.
_____ 4) The mark used to show the possessive of plural nouns is usually formed by adding this only.
_____ 5) Use these when the last part of a quoted sentence is omitted and what remains is still grammatically complete, showing the omission.