**ACT ENGLISH: PUNCTUATION**

1. **Apostrophes**

* **Three things to know about apostrophes**
  + **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **Plurals**
  + A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is more than one of something. Plurals alone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have apostrophes
    - Ex: There are several famous **curses** in **sports**.
* **Possessives**
  + Possessive nouns \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If a noun is singular, add \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to show possession.
    - Ex: The single **goat’s** influence created a sports myth.
* **Plural-Possessives**
  + If a noun is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, add an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - Ex: The **fans’** refusal to allow the goat into the stadium caused an outrage
    - Exception: when the plural form of a noun \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, add\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the noun.
      * Ex: The **children’s** curiosity about the goat was great.
* **Contractions**
  + Commonly confused contractions:
    - YOUR= \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - YOU’RE = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * *Your allegiance to the Cubs shows that you’re a loyal fan.*
    - ITS= \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - IT’s= \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * *It’s obvious that the legend has taken on a life of its own.*
    - THEIR = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - THEY’RE = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * *Fans show their loyalty by the fact that they’re always at the games.*
  + Practice:
    - The **World Series games** between the Cubs and the Tigers spawned the legend of the billy goat.
      * Is the underlined portion:
        + A. plural?
        + B. possessive?
        + C. plural-possessive?

1. **Commas**

* **Top 4 Rules**
  + **1.**
  + **2.**
  + **3.**
  + **4.**
* **Items in a Series**
  + Use commas to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + If the order of 2 or more adjectives can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ use a comma.
  + If the order of 2 or more adjectives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ use a comma.
* **Introductory Phrases**
  + Introductory phrases are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gets EXTRA PUNCTUATION.
  + An introductory phrase is separate from the main part of a sentence; the complete thought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - Example**:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Interruptions**
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that interrupt the complete thought of the sentences should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (unless they are prepositional phrases).
    - Remember: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Joining Independent Clauses**
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are complete thoughts.
  + When two or more complete thoughts are combined with one sentence, they are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + When these thoughts are combined with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ conjunction (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_), we should add a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before the conjunction.
  + Make sure that the half of the sentence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the conjunction and the half of the sentence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the conjunction are both complete thoughts that make sense on their own.
    - Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Semicolons**

* Semicolons join \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + These two thoughts should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ capitalize the word after the semicolon (unless it is a proper noun).
  + Check that half of the sentence before the semicolon and the half of the sentence after the semicolon are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Practice:
  + 50 Cent is best known for his rap career what many fans may not realize, though, is that he made much of his fortune in the stock market.
    - A. NO CHANGE
    - B. rap career what many fans may not realize;
    - C. rap career; What many fans may not realize,
    - D. rap career; what many fans may not realize