

NAME _____

CLASS _____

DATE _____

for CHAPTER 11: PUNCTUATION pages 302–304

Commas with Nonessential Clauses and Phrases

11i. Use commas to set off nonessential subordinate clauses and nonessential participial phrases.

A **nonessential** (or **nonrestrictive**) subordinate clause or participial phrase contains information that is not necessary to the basic meaning of the sentence.

NONESSENTIAL CLAUSE Gloria, **who lives next door**, is my best friend.

NONESSENTIAL PHRASE Myron, **sitting by the pond**, thought about his future.

An **essential** (or **restrictive**) subordinate clause or participial phrase is not set off by commas because it contains information that is necessary to the meaning of the sentence.

ESSENTIAL CLAUSE The playwright **whom I most admire** is Lillian Hellman.

ESSENTIAL PHRASE All people **working in that factory** assemble cars.

MECHANICS

EXERCISE A On the line provided before each sentence, write *N* if the underlined clause or phrase is nonessential. Write *E* if it is essential. Then, add commas wherever they are needed.

Example *N* 1. The roses, which look nice in that vase, were a gift from Al.

1. She returned all the books that she had borrowed from the library.
2. All students trying out for the track team should be excellent runners.
3. Robert Frost who taught at Harvard University was a great poet.
4. The man leading the parade is the mayor of our town.
5. The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which was adopted in 1920 granted women the right to vote.
6. Trucks carrying explosives were not allowed to pass through the tunnel.
7. I believe you'll like the chicken enchiladas which are a specialty at this restaurant.
8. Our kitchen recently remodeled is the most comfortable room of all.
9. Sylvia studied the theater's show times listed on page 8 of the newspaper.
10. Everyone who wants to have a successful garden must weed it regularly.

EXERCISE B Add commas to the following sentences where necessary. If a sentence is already correct, write *C* before the item number.

Example 1. Moira, thinking hard, finally remembered the answer to the question.

11. John who was named after his father decided to name his son something else.
12. Dermot remembering his training lifted the box with his knees and not with his back.
13. The students who finished the test before eleven o'clock were allowed to leave early.
14. The congresswoman first elected to the House of Representatives in 1998 served for six years.
15. Many books written by Stephen King have been made into movies.