

Punctuation Quiz

Identify which of the five functions the underlined areas match.

The average college student isn't ready for semicolons. She hasn't discerned any need for them¹ nor is she eager to. They look forbiddingly exotic²—about as tempting as a plate of snails. The literary gourmets can have them; she'll stick with her comma and period—though³ if truth⁴ be known⁵, she isn't too comfortable even with these. Confessed one sophomore, veteran of the trenches: "The first semester of Freshman English I used to write only short⁶ sentences so I wouldn't have to put commas in."

Experience brings a change in attitude, though—especially if that experience included extensive reading. ...

Since the sentences you're joining are closely related⁷, you don't have to insert *and* or *but* or any other connective between them, though you may want to⁸; all you really need is the semicolon. It's that simple. And you won't have any trouble if you just remember one caveat: *Don't try to join anything less than complete thoughts with it.*⁹

Part II

In the lines that are checked, insert or correct the punctuation needed and then on the right, label the number of "function" (1-5) that that punctuation mark is doing.

Insert correct punctuation

2. ✓ So as the journey begins I sit staring out the foggy car windows dreading what is to come. My mom and dad happily sway their heads to the calm music that plays on the radio. It's our annual family cook ✓✓ off and let me tell you our family is three times the size of "The ✓ Brady Bunch". As we arrive the smell of sizzling burgers and burning buns is in the air.

1. Ignore

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10. Function



10.

11.

12.

13.

Insert correct punctuation
↓

Mom and Dad crunch in together on the red picnic tables hoping that we will all fit. "Natalie, where are you my dear," Grandma calls out in her soft voice. I turn and there she comes smothering me in her death red lipstick. Old stories of the "good old day's" are brought up one after another. I sit hoping that the story I hate to hear won't pop up.

"Natalie, remember the time you knocked yourself out," my aunt Sylvia blurts out. My cheeks turn red as an apple as I try to

14. ✓ change the subject. Over the laughter my voice is just a mere whisper

15. ✓ to them and that is when I know what it is about to happen.

16. ✓ When I was about eight years old the whole family was

17. ✓ vacationing at our lake house. We went every year but this year was

18. ✓ special. My aunt was going to get married so we spent our time

19. ✓ preparing for the wedding. On the wedding day I was so excited.

"Ring, ring" were the sounds of the wedding bells that were heard

20. ✓ through out the house. My mom was too busy helping out ~~that~~ ^{so} I was

on my own. I had decided to raid the stash of candy that my sister hid

21. ✓ under her bed. By the time I was done I felt like the energizer bunny.

...

ID Function

↓

~~14.~~

14.

15

16.

17

18.

19.

20.

21.