Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ACT Prep Comma Rules

From http://blog.prepscholar.com/everything-you-need-to-know-about-commas-for-the-act

Some Rules to Remember

1. When in doubt leave it out.
2. **Any part of a sentence that can be removed without changing the sentence's fundamental meaning must be bracketed by commas.**
3. **If you aren't sure whether a part of a sentence needs to be surrounded by commas, try crossing it out. If the sentence still makes sense, then the commas are needed; if it doesn't, then they aren't.**
4. **The rule for using commas with relative clauses is that you don't use commas around a clause if it's restrictive, i.e. it clarifies the specific thing you're talking about, but you do use commas if the clause is non-restrictive, i.e. it merely comments on a clearly defined noun.**
5. **"Which" ALWAYS takes a comma and "that" NEVER does.**
6. **If you see a transition word interrupting a clause, it needs to be set off with commas.**
7. **Any time a sentence starts with a dependent clause or modifying phrase, it must be followed by a comma.**
8. **If you have two independent clauses and want to combine them into one sentence, you can use a comma and a coordinating conjunction.**
9. **In lists of three or more items, you must place a comma after every item except the last.**
10. **If "and" (or any other coordinating conjunction) is connecting two things that are not independent clauses, then you DON'T use a comma.**
11. **If you have more than one adjective in front of a noun or pronoun and their order doesn't matter, then you need to put a comma between them. If you're not sure, check whether the examples make sense with the order of the adjectives reversed.**
12. **It is NEVER correct to stick one in the middle of a single thought.**
13. **It is NEVER correct to place a comma after a preposition and very rarely correct to place one before a preposition.**

**Comma ACT Practice Questions**

1. The two “little brothers” of Ligia’s host family, who had volunteered to move, to those bedrooms for a year, had to be moved upstairs to the room Ligia was using.

A. NO CHANGE

B. volunteered to move to those bedrooms for a year

C. volunteered to move to those bedrooms for a year,

D. volunteered, to move to those bedrooms for a year,

1. Down the street from the college, I attend, the Save-U Laundromat is always open, and someone is always there.

A. NO CHANGE

B. college, I attend

C. college I attend,

D. college I attend

1. You have to admire the honesty of a company whose slogan is “Just About the Best.” Glory Foods’ president, and founder Bill Williams, explains the unusual slogan by admitting that while he knows that his foods can’t be beat the taste of real home cooking, they do come very close.

A. No CHANGE

B. president, and founder Bill Williams

C. president and founder Bill Williams

D. president and founder, Bill Williams,

1. Then again, you can sometimes get lucky, and a ball you thought was lost, will inexplicably bounce back into play.

A. NO CHANGE

B. lost will

C. lost, will,

D. lost will,

1. Suddenly, without warning, each of the letters, in front of you tumbles to the bottom of the screen.

A. NO CHANGE

B. letters in front of you tumbles,

C. letters in front of you, tumbles

D. letters in front of you tumbles

1. Not all viruses however, straighten themselves out.

A. NO CHANGE

B. viruses; however,

C. viruses, however

D. viruses, however,

1. Grandpa could punch in the time, and the channel of his favorite daily news program, and the TV would turn on that program at the proper time.

A. NO CHANGE

B. time and, the channel,

C. time and the channel

D. time and the channel,

1. The music and the instrument were adopted by musicians in that region, who began to use the accordion, in their own dance music, huapangos and rancheras.

A. NO CHANGE

B. accordion in their own dance music,

C. accordion, in their own dance music

D. accordion in their own dance music

1. During the early morning hours of October 28, 1965, engineers stationed 630 feet above the ground made careful measurements for the day’s work.

A. NO CHANGE

B. 1965, and engineers

C. 1965. Engineers

D. 1965; engineers

1. For years I had seen pictures of other Miami—many of them the ancestors of the people, who walked along with me to the long house that summer evening.

A. NO CHANGE

B. people who, walked along with me

C. people, who walked along, with me

D. people who walked along with me

1. Before leaving on a hunt, the pack gathers for a “group sing” called chorus howling. Usually begun by the alpha or, dominant, pair of wolves, the pack is excited in preparation for the hunt partly by chorus howling.

A. NO CHANGE

B. alpha, or dominant, pair

C. alpha or dominant pair,

D. alpha or, dominant pair

1. What’s already clear, is that the stereotypical image of the lone wolf howling at the full moon obscures the importance howling has in the social life of these animals.

A. NO CHANGE

B. clear is that,

C. clear is, that

D. clear is that

1. But this apparent chaos is the subject of scientific research.

A. NO CHANGE

B. chaos, is the subject

C. chaos is the subject,

D. chaos: is the subject

1. In February 2001, polar adventurers Liv Arnesen of Norway, and Ann Bancroft of Minnesota became the first women to climb and ski across the continent of Antarctica.

A. NO CHANGE

B. Arnesen, of Norway, and Ann Bancroft,

C. Arnesen, of Norway and Ann Bancroft,

D. Arnesen of Norway and Ann Bancroft

1. Hiking unassisted up the 10,000-foot-high Sygyn Glacier, and each woman pulled a sled that weighed more than 260 pounds.

A. NO CHANGE

B. when

C. while

D. Delete the underlined portion