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Commas to Set Off Interrupters

Assessment

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions below.

1 Class today we are going to learn about a branch of Buddhism a popular religion
 2 practiced in ancient Japan. Buddhism, introduced to Japan by the Chinese and Koreans
 3 in the sixth century had a profound effect on the people of Japan. In my opinion the most
 4 influential sect or branch was Zen. Zen taught that rigid spiritual and physical discipline
 5 would produce an enlightenment of the nature of existence and lead to nirvana a state of
 6 everlasting peace. It stressed recognizing the beauty of simplicity and man's
 7 harmony within nature. Both meditation and the adherence to defined social rules are
 8 components of Zen, and both are believed to keep peace and harmony within society.
 9 Throughout the years, Zen ways became absorbed into the lives of all people, regardless
 10 of their religious affiliation. This influence can be seen for example in the fine arts,
 11 customs, and daily living habits of the people of Japan today.

Select the proper punctuation correction for the following lines of the paragraph and write the appropriate letter on the blank.

Line 1: _____ A. Add a comma after the words *Class* and *Buddhism*.
 B. Add a comma after the words *Class* and *today*.
 C. No corrections are needed.

Line 3: _____ A. Add a comma after the word *opinion*.
 B. Add a comma after the words *century* and *opinion*.
 C. No corrections are needed.

Line 4: _____ A. Add a comma after the word *sect*.
 B. Add a comma after the words *sect* and *rigid*.
 C. No corrections are needed.

Line 5: _____ A. Add a comma after the word *nirvana*.
 B. Add a comma after the word *produce*.
 C. No corrections are needed.

Line 8: _____ A. Remove the comma after the word *Zen*.
 B. Add a comma after the word *both*.
 C. No corrections needed.

Line 10: _____ A. Add a comma after the words *seen* and *example*.
 B. Add a comma after the word *seen*.
 C. No corrections are needed.



Colons

Colons are used in conventional situations more often than in text. Below are a few cases.

Time	Ratios	Bible Verses	Business Letter Salutations
3:15 P.M.	2 to 1	John 3:16	Dear Sir:
4:17 A.M.	2:1	Genesis 1:7	To Whom It May Concern:

The most common placement for **colons** in text is before a list of items. If using a **colon** before your list, do not place it directly after a verb or a preposition. A **colon** is most often used with expressions like *as follows* or *the following*.

Correct	On our camping trip we will need to bring sleeping bags, a camping stove, a flashlight, warm clothes, and a week’s supply of food.
Incorrect	On our camping trip we will need to bring: sleeping bags, a camping stove, a flashlight, warm clothes, and a week’s supply of food.
Correct	On our camping trip we will need to bring the following items: sleeping bags, camping stove, a flashlight, warm clothes, and a week’s supply of food.
Correct	This recipe is made from chicken, curry, onions, brown sugar, and sour cream.
Incorrect	This recipe is made from: chicken, curry, onions, brown sugar, and sour cream.
Correct	This recipe includes these ingredients: chicken, curry, onions, brown sugar, and sour cream.

Read each list of items. Write a sentence with a colon inserted before each list.

1. bait, tackle, net, and hooks _____

2. ham sandwich, grapes, string cheese, orange juice, and a chocolate chip cookie _____

3. protractor, compass, calculator, ruler, and pencils _____

4. basketball, tennis, swimming, and bowling _____
