

Worksheet 4: Commas

Arbeitsblatt zum Buch "Pocket Guide: Texte Schreiben im Englisch-Abitur"



1. Put commas where they are obligatory.

In the article "Kill Bill: why we must take Shakespeare out of the classroom" written by Mark Powell and published in the Guardian the author argues that schools should take a more practical approach when dealing with Shakespeare.

Analyzing Shakespeare's text in a classroom the author contends is not only dull it also causes great frustration. According to the author this frustration stems from an ill-fated approach that schools have habitually taken. Instead of language theory or theatre visits Powell suggests that Shakespeare should be performed on stage by students themselves enabling them to bring the bard's words to life and to explore different interpretations themselves rather than being fed a single interpretation by their teacher. Thus in Powell's opinion the burden should be taken off teachers; more theatre professionals should be employed in schools. Powell asserts that the underlying reason for teenagers to reject Shakespeare is that Shakespeare himself wrote the plays to be performed rather than to be read.

2. Add commas. Some sentences need more than one comma, others don't need a comma at all.

- (a) Justin Trudeau Canada's prime minister was re-elected last year.
- (b) In particular she shows the difficulties first-generation students have.
- (c) Interestingly the Conservatives won the popular vote in Canada while they lost the popular vote in the US.
- (d) Despite our differences we reached a compromise.
- (e) Moreover he ignored the veto of Congress which is the legislative branch.
- (f) To sum up the American Constitution rests on the idea of checks and balances.
- (g) In line 1 in which Scout describes Jem as "moody" the narrator suggests to the reader that Jem and Scout's emotional states differ.
- (h) Calpurnia shows her love to Scout by kissing her an extraordinary gesture in the 1930s a time when race relations were at a low.
- (i) In the subsequent paragraph Livingstone refers to the claim that multiculturalism segregates communities.
- (j) Furthermore Livingstone underlines that there are fewer racist attacks in London and that the city has become extremely successful due to multiculturalism.
- (k) There is agreement that the text contains the stereotype of the black man but critics disagree in their judgement of how Shakespeare uses such a stereotype.
- (l) Boris Johnson Prime Minister of the UK said that the UK would leave the EU on Dec 31st.
- (m) The football match was cancelled because of the rain.
- (n) The football match was cancelled because it started to rain.
- (o) If you want the reader to pause use a comma.