# Punctuation Under Review

Edit an exhibit program to match its intended meaning

**11-12.L.2.b** "Resolve issues of complex or contested mechanics and conventions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline draft lines A through D. Circle punctuation that needs changing, and use carets to show where punctuation needs to be added.

### Before the Doors Open

1 At the old station, a museum team is preparing labels for an exhibit about the building's second life. Commuters once bought tickets beneath a brass clock; now visitors listen to recorded stories in the same hall. An editor checks the labels against interview notes and the team's style sheet. The title, *Voices at the Station*, stays consistent across every sign, even when the font changes. One draft label, line A, reads, "The ticket windows are gone, however, the clock still runs." The editor wants readers to see a contrast, not two thoughts jammed together.

2 On opening night, every volunteer stayed late to test the recordings. Each person received a free ticket for a future visit. Line B in the program reads, "The volunteers who stayed late received free tickets." A visitor could take that wording to mean some volunteers left early and did not receive tickets. The editor compares it with the attendance sheet, which lists the entire volunteer crew. Later, she checks the program's captions against the recordings themselves. If a caption changes the scope of a claim, the error is more than cosmetic.

3 One recording captures a guide saying, "The clock is original." A visitor has asked whether the guide really said those words, and the editor plans to print that question in a sidebar. Line C reads, "Did the guide say 'The clock is original?'" The editor also reviews a credit for a single audio tour created together by two students, Mina and Rafael. Line D reads, "Listen to Mina's and Rafael's audio tour." Neither student made a separate tour. Before the program goes to press, the editor must make each line match the intended meaning without changing the underlying facts.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Revise line A so its punctuation connects the two contrasting statements correctly. Why is your change needed?

2. Revise line B to match the attendance sheet. How does your punctuation change the meaning?

3. Revise line C so readers can tell what the guide said and what the visitor is asking.

4. Revise line D to credit the students for the single tour they made together. Explain your apostrophe choice.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence announcement for an event you invent. Use a semicolon followed by however in one sentence and a nonessential who-clause in the other. Add one short sentence explaining why you used the commas.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · 11-12.L.2.b

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline draft lines A through D. Circle punctuation that needs changing, and use carets to show where punctuation needs to be added. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Revise line A so its punctuation connects the two contrasting statements correctly. Why is your change needed? | **"The ticket windows are gone; however, the clock still runs." The semicolon separates two independent clauses joined by however.** |
| 2 | Revise line B to match the attendance sheet. How does your punctuation change the meaning? | **"The volunteers, who stayed late, received free tickets." The commas show that all the volunteers stayed late, rather than identifying only some of them.** |
| 3 | Revise line C so readers can tell what the guide said and what the visitor is asking. | **"Did the guide say 'The clock is original'?" The guide made a statement; the visitor's full sentence is the question.** |
| 4 | Revise line D to credit the students for the single tour they made together. Explain your apostrophe choice. | **"Listen to Mina and Rafael's audio tour." The apostrophe on the second name shows joint ownership of one tour.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The planetarium is sold out; however, the livestream is free. Our speaker, who built the telescope, will answer questions online. The commas show that the clause adds information about our one speaker rather than identifying which speaker we mean.

Accept revisions that preserve the passage's stated facts and intended meaning. For the open task, the who-clause must add information about an already identifiable person.