

Seeds and Stops

Read a model text and study commas and semicolons in context.

7.10.D.viii "punctuation, including commas to set off words, phrases, and clauses, and semicolons; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every semicolon. Circle each pair of commas that sets off an extra word or phrase, and number the commas that follow an introductory word, phrase, or clause.

The Riverbend Seed Library

- ① On a cool October morning, volunteers gathered at the Riverbend Seed Library. The library, a small room beside the town greenhouse, stores seeds that gardeners may borrow. Before planting begins, each visitor chooses a packet and writes its name in a notebook. The system is simple; it helps the library track which seeds are popular. Maya, the student volunteer, explained that borrowers return seeds from healthy plants at the end of the season each autumn.
- ② Seeds can preserve varieties that may be hard to find in stores. For example, Riverbend keeps beans with purple pods, tomatoes shaped like pears, and corn with blue kernels. The seeds must stay dry, however, or mold can damage them. Volunteers label every packet with its crop, variety, and collection year; clear labels prevent mix-ups. If a packet is nearly empty, the group places it on a list for next year's growers. In this way, the library protects both plants and local gardening knowledge.
- ③ At spring's first swap, the room fills with gardeners carrying jars and envelopes. Some bring seeds saved from last summer; others bring extra packets they bought but did not use. Jordan checks the donations carefully, because wet or unlabeled seeds cannot enter the collection. After the swap ends, volunteers sort the packets by crop. They place lettuce near spinach, for instance, and peppers near tomatoes. The work takes time; the result is a shared supply that neighbors can use when planting season arrives.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Copy the sentence in paragraph 2 that uses a comma after an introductory dependent clause.

2 In the sentence beginning “The seeds must stay dry,” what word is set off by commas?

3 Copy the two complete clauses joined by the semicolon in the sentence about labeling packets.

4 Could a comma alone correctly join the two clauses in “The work takes time; the result is a shared supply”? Explain why or why not.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about organizing materials for a club, team, or event. Use a comma after an introductory phrase or clause in one sentence, commas to set off an extra word or phrase in one sentence, and a semicolon to join two related complete clauses in one sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every semicolon. Circle each pair of commas that sets off an extra word or phrase, and number the commas that follow an introductory word, phrase, or clause. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the sentence in paragraph 2 that uses a comma after an introductory dependent clause.	If a packet is nearly empty, the group places it on a list for next year's growers.
2	In the sentence beginning "The seeds must stay dry," what word is set off by commas?	however
3	Copy the two complete clauses joined by the semicolon in the sentence about labeling packets.	Volunteers label every packet with its crop, variety, and collection year; clear labels prevent mix-ups.
4	Could a comma alone correctly join the two clauses in "The work takes time; the result is a shared supply"? Explain why or why not.	No. Both parts are complete clauses, so a comma alone would create a comma splice.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before the robotics meeting, I sort the tools into labeled bins. Our captain, a careful planner, checks the batteries. The table is crowded; the bins keep every tool easy to find.

Accept any three sentences that use all three required punctuation patterns correctly. For the semicolon sentence, confirm that both sides can stand alone as complete sentences.