

More Mechanics Help with Paragraph Practice

Enter the correct punctuation in the following paragraph making sure to pay attention to capitalization and repetition.

Jack and Tom had just seen a movie in which a city was destroyed by an earthquake ____ While they were waiting for their bus ____ Tom said ____ "You know what ____ Jack, I'll bet the San Francisco earthquake was much worse than the one we saw tonight. In fact, I'll bet it was the worst earthquake that ever happened anywhere in the world ____"

Jack looked down the street and did not see the bus ____ Then he said to Tom, "You're wrong ____ Tom. We studied earthquakes in my geography class last month ____ and I learned that there have been many destructive earthquakes around the world. You must first realize that the earth's crust shakes because of rocks moving below the surface; that more than a million earthquakes occur around the world each year ____ and that much of the damage in San Francisco was caused by fire, the fact that many building did not have proper foundations ____ and the fact that many people were in a state of shock and did little to help the situation in which they found themselves.

Jack exclaimed, "Boy ____ you sure must have learned a lot in your class ____ Do you know about any other earthquakes ____"

The bus came, and the boys go on it for the ride home. Tom turned to Jack and said ____ "There have been many famous earthquakes. Lisbon ____ Portugal had one in 1755 that killed nearly 50,000 people. Tokyo, Japan had one in 1923 that left about 2,500,000 people homeless. Here is our stop ____ Jack."

After they got off the bus ____ Jack said, "Gee ____ I wish I had taken the geography class you have in school. I'd really like to learn more about earthquakes ____" Tom answered, "Great ____ I'll let you read the information I received in class, and then you'll know as much as I do about earthquakes."

Appositives

Remember that an appositive states the same idea twice. You are separating the idea from the explanation.

Ex.. Mr. Bush, the president, lives in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Bush is the president.

The president is Mr. Bush.

Since we are repeating an idea, we separate the supporting idea with two commas as shown above. Punctuate the following appositives correctly.

1. Have you met Agnes the butcher's wife?
2. The dentist said his new car a 76 El Camino is to die for.
3. We were at my favorite restaurant the Flying Snail when I saw Tom Hanks.
4. I felt like we walked forever without an end, but I knew I was almost home when we got to Chevron the gas station by my house.
5. My favorite book The Cat in the Hat was on sale at the store.

Semicolon Use

- Use a semicolon between independent clauses (complete sentences) not joined by *and, but, for, or, nor, yet*.
Ex. I was willing to compromise; you were not.
- Use a semicolon between independent clauses joined by the words *accordingly, also, besides, consequently, furthermore, hence, however, indeed, instead, moreover, nevertheless, otherwise, similarly, still therefore, thus, for example, for instance, that is, in fact*.
Ex. Peter failed two subjects; consequently, he will have to be in a junior home room next year.
- Use a semicolon between items in a series if the items contain commas.
Ex. The tree top seniors in this year's class have the following four-year averages: Marvin Adams, 94.8; Rutha Ann Cummins, 93.6; and Joan Dorf, 92.8.

Read the following examples and add semicolons where needed.

1. Mary Ann is my sister and Dan is my twin brother.
2. The last vote was counted Jane was elected.
3. Sally decided against the ten-speed bike she's going to get a three-speed instead.
4. Today we do not use such comparisons as Shakespeare's "most unkindest cut of all" however, the plays slight contains several meanings.
5. Natalie visited three state capitals on her trip down the West Coast, Olympia, Washington Salem, Oregon and Sacramento, California.
6. Sheila is going to New York this summer she has never been there before.
7. My father is a basketball fan in fact he has not missed a single home game in the last three years.