

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Perfect Series

Let's say you have a sentence that includes a series—that is, a list. Here are some tips to help you get it right!

Place the word *and* or the word *or* between the last two items in a series.

For example:

Kim goes to dance class on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

David doesn't like spinach, olives, or hot peppers on his pizza.

Use commas to separate items in a series of three or more items.

You *do* need a comma after each item
in this series:

Frank broke his nose, his right arm, his left thumb,
and his left ankle.

You *don't* need a comma between the
items in this sentence:

Julie broke her left wrist and her right ankle.

.....
Note: There are different opinions about whether it's always necessary to place a comma before the *and* or the *or* that comes before the last item. In the U.S., it is common to use this final comma—so unless you are told otherwise, go ahead and place a comma between the last two items in a list.

Directions: Consider the series in each of the following sentences. If it is written correctly, write "C" on the line. If there are any mistakes, write "M" and correct the mistakes. (For this activity, place a comma between the last two items in the list.) We did the first one for you.

M 1. The floor was covered with pieces of paper, coffee grounds, apple slices, ^{and} empty soda cans.

___ 2. Katie said she was going to the movies with Anne, Judy, Rick, and Ben.

___ 3. Elliot cannot decide which Hunger Games book is his favorite: *The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, or *Mockingjay*.

___ 4. We have two choices for when to see the movie: 1 p.m., or 4 p.m.

___ 5. Jackie had an hour before basketball practice. She could start her homework read her book or chat with her friends.

Directions: Rewrite each set of sentences as a single sentence that includes a series. Be sure to use commas to separate the items in the series, and to use *and* or *or* between the last two items. We did the first one for you.

6. Claire wore a coat. She also wore a hat and gloves and a scarf and earmuffs.

Claire wore a coat, a hat, gloves, a scarf, and earmuffs.

7. It was hard to choose what to eat for lunch: pizza or sandwiches. Burgers were also an option.

8. Christina flipped through the yearbook and found photos of herself on pages 3 and 7. She also found some on pages 14 and 18 and 22.

9. Brian needed to buy an onion. He needed to buy a carrot. He needed to buy celery. He needed to buy beans.

10. The pharmacy was gone. The movie theater was gone too. So were the candy store and the café and the bakery.

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Scavenger Hunt: Lists

Directions: Review the rules for how to write and punctuate items in a list. Then complete the scavenger hunt below. You'll be hunting through the February 2018 issue of *Scope*.

Rules for Writing and Punctuating Lists

- 1. If you have more than two items in a list of nouns, separate them with a comma. Separate the final item in the list with the word *and* or *or*.**

Example: "She might be dressed in a tutu, a pilot's hat, or a vest that says "'Pet Me!'"

.....

Note: There are different opinions about whether it's always necessary to place a comma before the *and* or the *or* that comes before the last item. In the U.S., it is common to use this final comma—so unless you are told otherwise, go ahead and place a comma between the last two items in a list.

- 2. For a list of just two items, no comma is necessary—simply add the word *and* or *or* between the items.**

Example: "Lilou is a therapy animal, meaning she provides comfort and affection."

- 1.** Go to page 4, which is the beginning of the nonfiction article "Escape From Slavery." The subheading includes a list. Write the subheading here:

Which rule from the box above was followed to write and punctuate this list? (Check one.)

☐ Rule 1

☐ Rule 2

- 2.** Go to page 6 in the same article. Find the sentence about Harriet Tubman's two oldest sisters that includes a list. Write the sentence here:

Why isn't there a comma after *Soph*?

- 3.** Go to page 12 in "The Rise of the Kid Chef." Read the sentence that begins "That started to change . . ."

Rewrite that sentence, but remove one item from the list:

- 5.** Write a sentence about any of the articles in the February 2018 issue of *Scope*. Your sentence must include a list of three or more items.

- 4.** Go to page 16 in *The Lost King*. Read SD2's first line in Scene 3.

Imagine the king was also wearing a tattered scarf. Rewrite SD2's line accordingly:

- 6.** Write a sentence about any of the articles in the February 2018 issue of *Scope*. This time, your sentence must include just two items.
