Commas & Dashes Guided Practice Handout

Write correct if the sentence is correct, or add commas if necessary. Any commas already in the sentences are correct and should not be changed.

1. The blown damaged fuse was easy to replace.

2. Teach children never to touch a downed power line.

3. The new power plant will open soon in central Kentucky.

4. You should check the wattage of your old dusty light bulbs.

5. Replacing your old light bulbs with energy-efficient ones can save you some money on your electric bill.

6. He purchased a large red generator to use in case of a long power outage.

7. The huge interconnected power grid is quite fascinating.

8. The mother plugged the dangerous low-to-the-floor electrical outlet.

9. Important nonrenewable resources should be conserved.

10. Kids often hit the high power lines with their wiffle balls.

11. The transformer which is a device that reduces the voltage of electricity needs to be replaced.

12. The outages which are periods of time when the power isn’t working are marked on an interactive map.

13. Troubleshooters workers sent to evaluate a power outage are often the first on the scene.

14. The surge which was a sudden burst of electricity damaged the fuse.

15. 120 volts which is the standard voltage in a U.S. home is higher than the voltage in homes in most foreign countries.

16. Many neighbors are not on the same electrical circuit which is a connected loop of power lines.

17. A lineman’s easiest job is a blown fuse which is a fuse that has been used during an electrical problem.

18. Turning the lights back on which is often referred to as power restoration is a rewarding job.

19. To install a new dishwasher, George had to turn off the breaker which is located in the garage.

20. James “closed the circuit” which is a phrase that means he allowed the electricity to flow again.

**Use a dash or a paired dash or parentheses to punctuate the following sentences. Write C if the sentence is correct:**

21. Sam’s trouble ticket which includes five jobs for his eight-hour shift is full today.

22. Downed power lines or lines that have been knocked down by storms, wildlife, or other causes are extremely dangerous.

23. Dave used his hot stick which is a device that allows lineman to remove dangerously hot rods to check the oil in the transformer.

24. The volt meter a device that measures electricity showed a reading of zero.

25. Mark followed the company’s safety protocols clear steps that workers should take in certain situations.

26. The circuit needs more lightning arrestors which are devices that dilute the power of electricity before it reaches important equipment to keep the equipment safe from major damage.

27. Certain materials are good conductors they allow electricity to move through them easily.

28. Transformers, fuses, substations these are all important terms for power and energy jobs.

29. Many customers are interested in changing to smart meters that can track their power usage in real time.

30. Ice storms, lightning, car accidents each of these could cause a power outage.

31. Write your own sentence of coordinate adjectives that need a comma:

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32. Write your own sentence of a nonrestrictive element that needs a comma or commas:

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33. Write your own sentence that uses a dash or paired dash for an interrupter:

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34. Write your own sentence that uses parentheses correctly:

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Guided Practice Handout: Answer Key

Write C if the sentence is correct, or add commas if necessary.

1. The blown, damaged fuse was easy to replace.

2. Teach children never to touch a downed power line. C

3. The new power plant will open soon in central Kentucky. C

4. You should check the wattage of your old, dusty light bulbs.

5. Replacing your old light bulbs with energy-efficient ones can save you some money on your electric bill. C

6. He purchased a large, red generator to use in case of a long power outage.

7. The huge, interconnected power grid is quite fascinating.

8. The mother plugged the dangerous, low-to-the-floor electrical outlet.

9. Important nonrenewable resources should be conserved. C

10. Kids often hit the high power lines with their wiffle balls. C

11. The transformer, which is a device that reduces the voltage of electricity, needs to be replaced.

12. The outages, which are periods of time when the power isn’t working, are marked on an interactive map.

13. Troubleshooters, workers sent to evaluate a power outage, are often the first on the scene.

14. The surge, which was a sudden burst of electricity, damaged the fuse.

15. 120 volts, which is the standard voltage in a U.S. home, is higher than the voltage in homes in most foreign countries.

16. Many neighbors are not on the same electrical circuit, which is a connected loop of power lines.

17. A lineman’s easiest job is a blown fuse, which is a fuse that has been used during an electrical problem.

18. Turning the lights back on, which is often referred to as power restoration, is a rewarding job.

19. To install a new dishwasher, George had to turn off the breaker, which is located in the garage.

20. James “closed the circuit,” which is a phrase that means he allowed the electricity to flow again.

**Use a dash or a paired dash or parentheses to punctuate the following sentences or write C if the sentence is correct:**

**Anytime I have inserted a dash or paired dash, you could use parentheses—except if the interrupter is at the beginning of the sentence.**

21. Sam’s trouble ticket—which includes five jobs for his eight-hour shift—is full today.

22. Downed power lines—or lines that have been knocked down by storms, wildlife, or other causes—are extremely dangerous.

23. Dave used his hot stick—which is a device that allows lineman to remove dangerously hot rods—to check the oil in the transformer.

**Note: Students may forget to add the second dash at rods, but it is essential. “Dave used his hot stick” is an incomplete thought.**

24. The volt meter—a device that measures electricity—showed a reading of zero.

25. Mark followed the company’s safety protocols—clear steps that workers should take in certain situations.

26. The circuit needs more lightning arrestors—which are devices that dilute the power of electricity before it reaches important equipment—to keep the equipment safe from major damage.

27. Certain materials are good conductors (they allow electricity to move through them easily).

28. Transformers, fuses, substations—these are all important terms for power and energy jobs.

29. Many customers are interested in changing to smart meters that can track their power usage in real time. C

30. Ice storms, lightning, car accidents—each of these could cause a power outage.