Punctuation – Why it’s Interesting!

Park St. School, July, 2005
When?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time Estimate</th>
<th>Age in Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>(5 BYA)</td>
<td>5 followed by 9 zeros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>(3 BYA)</td>
<td>3 followed by 9 zeros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bipedal Hominids</td>
<td>(8 – 5 MYA)</td>
<td>8 followed by 6 zeros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>(2 MYA – 50KYA)</td>
<td>2 followed by 6 zeros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>(4 KYA)</td>
<td>4000 years ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation</td>
<td>(2 KYA)</td>
<td>2000 years ago</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The First Writing, 2000 BC

Fig. 1: Wadi el-Hol Inscriptions 1 (left) and 2 (right)
Yet the Almighty Father would not take away from Adam and from Eve, at once, all goodly things, though He withdrew His favour from them. But for their comfort He left the sky above them adorned with shining stars, gave them wide-stretching fields, and bade the earth and sea and all their teeming multitudes to bring forth fruits to serve man’s earthly need.
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CHAP. XL.

I am now beginning to get fairly into my work; and by the help of a vegetable diet, with a few of the cold seeds, I made no doubt but I shall be able to go on with my uncle Toby’s story, and my own, in a tolerable straight line. Now,

These were the four lines I moved in through my first, second, third, and fourth volumes. In the fifth volume I have been very good—the precise line I have described in it being this:

A B

By which it appears, that except at the curve, marked A, where I took a trip to Navarre—and the indented curve B, which is the short airing when I was there with the Lady Boffin—and her page—I have not taken the least frisk of a digression, till John de la Caille’s devils led me the round you see marked D; for as for c e e e e they are nothing but parentheses, and the common ins and outs incident to the lives of the greatest ministers of State; and when compared
By which it appears, that except at the curve, marked A. where I took a trip to Navarre,—and the indented curve B. which is the short airing when I was there with Lady Baussiere and her page,—I have not taken the least frisk of a digression...

By which it appears that – except at the curve marked A., where I took a trip to Navarre, and the indented curve B., which is the short airing when I was there with Lady Baussiere and her page – I have not taken the least frisk of a digression...
By which it appears, that except at the curve, marked A. where I took a trip to Navarre,—and the indented curve B. which is the short airing when I was there with Lady Baussiere and her page,—I have not taken the least frisk of a digression...
I saw a seesaw on the sea shore
Ambiguity: Word Boundaries

- Isawaseesawontheseashore
- Isawaseesawontheseashore
- Isawaseesawontheseashore
- I saw a seesaw on the sea shore
Punctuation

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Ambiguity: Garden Paths

- Charles the First walked and talked half an hour after his head was cut off
- Charles the First walked and talked. Half an hour after, his head was cut off.
- I told the girl that the boy kissed a story
- I told the girl that the boy kissed, a story.
- I told the girl who the boy kissed a story.
Ambiguity: Garden Paths

- Charles the First walked and talked half an hour after his head was cut off.
- Charles the First walked and talked. Half an hour after, his head was cut off.

- I told the girl that the boy kissed a story.
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I told the girl who the boy kissed a story.

I told the girl who the boy kissed a story.
Without her contributions to the school would be small.

Without her, contributions to the school would be small.

My great-great-great-great-grandfather was a jockey.

My great-great-great-great grandfather, was a jockey.

The girl fell | the boy pushed her.

The girl fell – the boy pushed her.

The girl fell. The boy pushed her.
Without her contributions to the school would be small.

Without her, contributions to the school would be small.

My great-great-great-great-grandfather | was a jockey.

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The teacher who I met at the parents’ evening was very polite.

The teacher, who I met at the parents’ evening, was very polite.

The teacher returned the homework cried.

The teacher, returned the homework, cried.

The teacher who was returned the homework cried.
The teacher who I met at the parents’ evening was very polite.
The teacher, who I met at the parents’ evening, was very polite.

- The teacher returned the homework cried
- ??The teacher, returned the homework, cried.
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9)  
a) Paul Simon sang, "I am a rock, I am an island."

b) Paul Simon sang, "I am a rock; I am an island."

c) Paul Simon sang, I am a rock; I am an island.

d) Paul Simon sang, I am a rock, I am an island.

You must have studied hard. Good job!

Sorry, the correct answer is x

A Punctuation Test
It was a dark stormy night.

, / No comma

The Punctuation Game