

8. Experts don't agree on an exact figure, but they've guessed that *The Scream* is worth between \$50 and \$70 million.
9. Thieves usually demand a ransom for such a famous artwork because they can't sell it openly.
10. However, those who've stolen *The Scream* didn't ask for money, and the crime remains one of the great unsolved art heists of all time.

B. The Apostrophe For Ownership

Use the apostrophe to show ownership: Add an 's if a noun or an indefinite pronoun (like *someone*, *anybody*, and so on) does not already end in -s:

1. I cannot find my *friend's* book bag.
2. *Everyone's* right to privacy should be respected.
3. *John and Julio's* apartment has striped wallpaper.
4. The *children's* clothes are covered with mud.

- The *friend* owns the book bag.
- *Everyone* owns the right to privacy.
- Both John and Julio own one apartment. The apostrophe follows the compound subject *John and Julio*.
- The *children* own the clothes.

Add only an apostrophe to show ownership if the word already ends in -s:*

5. My *aunts'* houses are filled with antiques.
6. The *knights'* table was round.
7. *Mr. Jonas'* company manufactures sporting goods and uniforms.

- My *aunts* (at least two of them) own the houses.
- The *knights* (at least two) own the table.
- *Aunts* and *knights* already end in -s, so only an apostrophe is added.
- *Mr. Jonas* owns the company. *Mr. Jonas* already ends in -s, so only an apostrophe is added.

* Some writers add an -'s to one-syllable proper names that end in -s: James's bike.

Note that *possessive pronouns never take an apostrophe: his, hers, theirs, ours, yours, its:*

8. *His* car gets twenty miles to the gallon, but *hers* gets only ten.
9. That computer is *theirs*; *ours* is coming soon.

PRACTICE 2

Proofread the following sentences and add apostrophes where necessary to show ownership. In each case, ask yourself if the word already ends in -s. Put a C after any correct sentences.

1. Bills bed is a four-poster.
2. Martha and Davids house is a log cabin made entirely by hand.
3. Somebodys cell phone was left on the sink.
4. During the eighteenth century, ladies dresses were heavy and uncomfortable.
5. Have you seen the childrens watercolor set?
6. Mr. James fried chicken and rice dish was crispy and delicious.
7. The class loved reading about Ulysses travels.
8. The Surgeon Generals latest report was just released.
9. Our citys water supply must be protected.
10. He found his ticket, but she cannot find hers.
11. Every spring, my grandmothers porch is completely covered with old furniture for sale.
12. Jacks car is the same color as ours.
13. Celias final, a brilliant study of pest control on tobacco farms, received a high grade.
14. The mens locker room is on the right; the womens is on the left.
15. The program is entering its final year.

C. Special Uses of the Apostrophe

Use an apostrophe in certain expressions of time:

1. I desperately need a *week's* vacation.

- Although the week does not own a vacation, it is a vacation of a week—a *week's vacation*.

Use an apostrophe to pluralize lowercase letters, words, and numbers that normally do not have plurals:

2. Be careful to cross your *t's*.
3. Your *8's* look like *f's*.
4. Don't use so many *but's* in your writing.

Use an apostrophe to show omitted numbers:

5. The class of '72 held its annual reunion last week.

PRACTICE 3

Proofread these sentences and add an apostrophe wherever necessary.

1. Cross your *ts* and dot your *is*.
2. I would love a months vacation on a dude ranch.
3. Too many *ands* make this paragraph dull.
4. Those *9s* look crooked.
5. You certainly put in a hard days work!

Handwritten notes:
 The
 words
 '72

Use commas to set off parenthetical elements:

5. *By the way*, where is the judge's umbrella?
6. Nobody, *it seems*, wants to eat the nut burgers.

- *By the way* and *it seems* are called parenthetical expressions because they appear to be asides, words not really crucial to the meaning of the sentence. They could almost appear in parentheses: (*By the way*) where is the judge's umbrella?

Other common parenthetical expressions are *after all*, *actually*, *as a matter of fact*, and *to tell the truth*.

PRACTICE 2

Punctuate the following sentences:

1. Frankly I always suspected that you were a born saleswoman.
2. All 12 jurors by the way felt that the defendant was innocent.
3. On every April Fools' Day he tries out a new, dumb practical joke.
4. In fact Lucinda should never have written that poison-pen letter.
5. Close to the top of Mount Washington the climbers paused for a tea break.
6. To tell the truth that usher needs a lesson in courtesy.
7. Near the end of the driveway a large lilac bush bloomed and brightened the yard.
8. He prefers as a rule serious news programs to the lighter sitcoms.
9. To sum up Mr. Choi will handle all the details.
10. During my three years in Minnesota I learned how to deal with snow.

C. Commas For Appositives

Use commas to set off appositives:*

1. Yoko, *our new classmate*, is our best fielder.
2. *A humorous and charming man*, he was a great hit with my parents.
3. This is her favorite food, *ketchup sandwiches*.

- Appositive phrases like *our new classmate*, *a humorous and charming man*, and *ketchup sandwiches* rename or describe nouns and pronouns—Yoko, he, food.

* For more work on appositives, see Chapter 22, "Revising for Sentence Variety," Part D.

4. Hip hop mogul Simmons launched Def Jam Recordings.
5. His ex-wife, Kimora, succeeded with her company Baby Phat.

- A one-word appositive is not set off by commas when it is essential to the meaning of the sentence. Without the appositive *Simmons*, we do not know who launched Def Jam Recordings.
- A one-word appositive is set off by commas when it is not essential to the meaning of the sentence. The name *Kimora* does not affect the meaning of the sentence.

PRACTICE 3

Punctuate the following sentences.

1. The Rock the popular wrestler and actor starred in movies and made a video with musician Wyclef Jean.
2. Long novels especially ones with complicated plots force me to read slowly.
3. Rolando a resident nurse hopes to become a pediatrician.
4. I don't trust that tire the one with the yellow patch on the side.
5. Tanzania a small African nation exports cashew nuts.
6. Watch out for Phil a man whose ambition rules him.
7. Ms. Liu a well-known nutritionist lectures at public schools.
8. A real flying ace Helen will teach a course in sky diving.
9. We support the Center for Science in the Public Interest a consumer education and protection group.
10. My husband Bill owns two stereos.

D. Commas with Nonrestrictive and Restrictive Clauses

A **relative clause** is a clause that begins with *who*, *which*, or *that* and modifies a noun or pronoun. There are two kinds of relative clauses: **nonrestrictive** and **restrictive**.*

A **nonrestrictive relative clause** is not essential to the meaning of the sentence:

1. Raj, *who is a part-time aviator*, loves to tinker with machines of all kinds.

* For more work on nonrestrictive and restrictive clauses, see Chapter 22, "Revising for Sentence Variety," Part D.

- *Who is a part-time aviator* is a relative clause describing *Raj*. It is a nonrestrictive relative clause because it is not essential to the meaning of the sentence. The point is that *Raj loves to tinker with machines of all kinds*.
- **Commas** set off the nonrestrictive relative clause.

A restrictive relative clause is essential to the meaning of the sentence:

2. People *who do their work efficiently* make good students.

- *Who do their work efficiently* is a relative clause describing *people*. It is a restrictive relative clause because it is *essential* to the meaning of the sentence. Without it, sentence 2 would read, *People make good students*. But the point is that certain people make good students—*those who do their work efficiently*.
- Restrictive relative clauses do *not* require commas.

PRACTICE 4

Set off the nonrestrictive relative clauses in the following sentences with commas. Note that *which* usually begins a nonrestrictive relative clause and *that* usually begins a restrictive clause. Remember: Restrictive relative clauses are *not* set off by commas. Write a C after each correct sentence.

1. Olive who always wanted to go into law enforcement is a detective in the Eighth Precinct.
2. Employees who learn to use the new computers may soon qualify for a merit raise.
3. Polo which is not played much in the United States is very popular in England.
4. A person who always insists upon telling you the truth is sometimes a pain in the neck.
5. Statistics 101 which is required for the business curriculum demands concentration and perseverance.
6. Robin who is usually shy at large parties spent the evening dancing with Arsenio who is everybody's favorite dance partner.
7. This small shop sells furniture that is locally handcrafted.
8. His uncle who rarely eats meat consumes enormous quantities of vegetables, fruits, and grains.

For centuries, vampire stories have been told around the world.
 Stephenie Meyer, author of the four *Twilight* books weaves vampires
 into a teenage love triangle.

Twilight, *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, and *Breaking Dawn* have sold 100 million
 copies and have been translated into 37 languages.

PRACTICE 7

REVIEW

Using the proofreading strategy explained on the previous page, proofread the following essay for comma errors—either missing commas or commas used incorrectly. Correct the errors above the lines.

PIXAR PERFECT

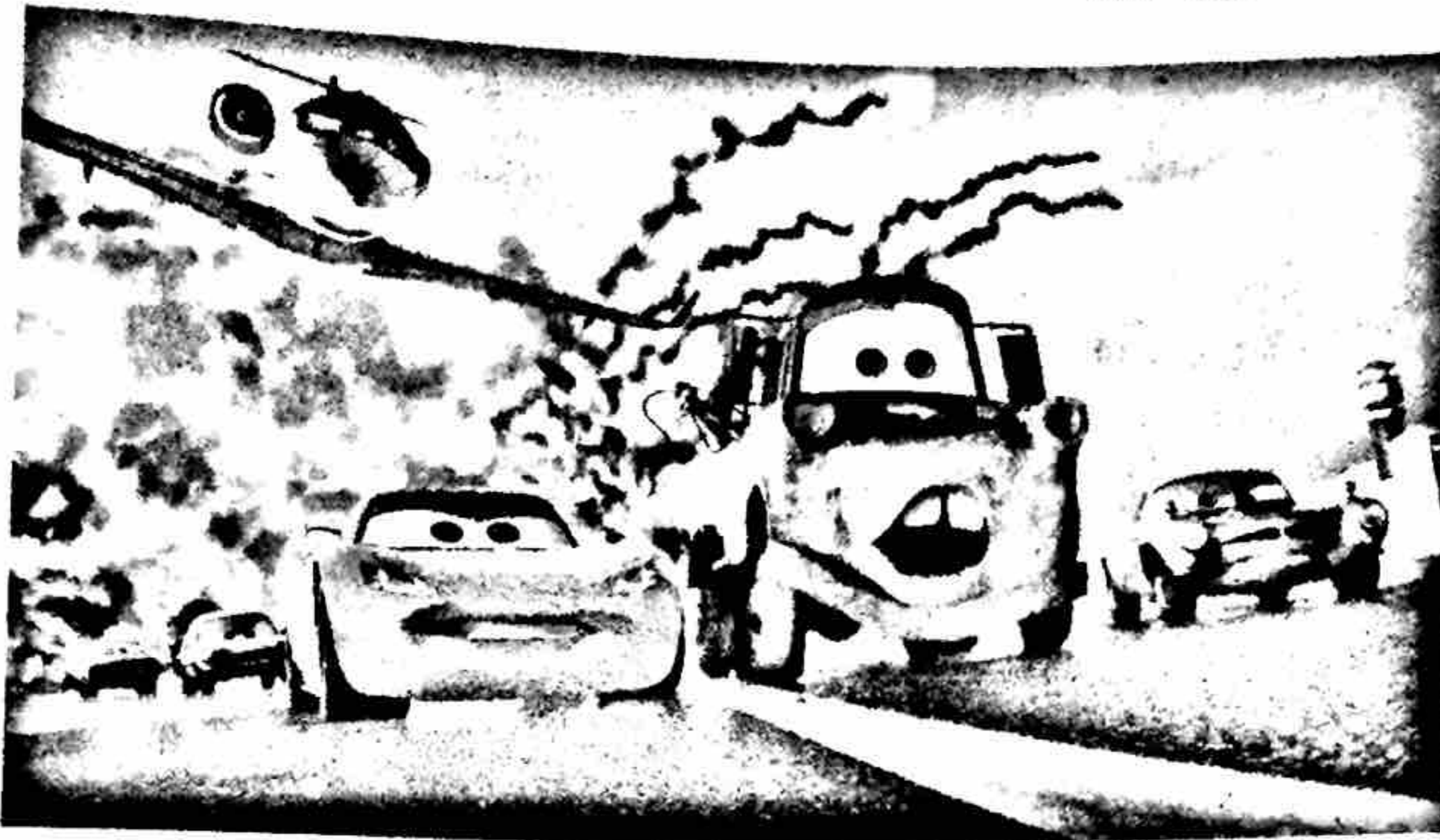
(1) A company called Pixar has transformed animated films. (2) It was started in 1986 by Steven Jobs the head of Apple Computer and creator of the iPod and iPhone. (3) Applying technical imagination to story-telling Pixar has produced some of the most successful and beloved movies ever made. (4) *Toy Story*, *A Bug's Life*, *Finding Nemo*, *Monsters, Inc.*, *Wall-E*, *Up*, and *Cars* appealed to both children and adults by combining engaging stories memorable characters, and cutting-edge computer animation.

(5) Pixar's action-packed plots carry emotional punch. (6) In *Finding Nemo* for instance, Nemo's father searches for his missing son in the vast ocean and learns about the bonds of family love. (7) *Monsters, Inc.* explores the theme of facing fears as it follows two monsters attempting to return a wayward toddler to her room. (8) In *Wall-E*, an outdated robot on the abandoned planet Earth meets a sleek robot from space falls in love and helps save the planet.

(9) Pixar populates these plots with lovable heroes and diabolical villains. (10) Although none of them is technically a human characters like Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Sully, Nemo, and Wall-E win moviegoers' hearts with their "humanity." (11) Woody is upset when a new toy replaces him as the favorite. (12) Lonely Wall-E longs to win the the heart of shiny Eve. (13) The characters seem even more real because stars like Ellen Degeneres, Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, John Goodman, and Billy Crystal bring their voices to life.

(14) Finally Pixar animators use the latest computer-animation technology and meticulous detail to create realistic 3-D images. (15) Monster Sully's shaggy blue coat ripples in the wind for example because animators created a separate computer model

Lightning McQueen and tow truck Mater tangle with spies in *Cars 2*.



© Buena Vista Pictures / courtesy Everett Collection

for each of its 2.3 million individual hairs. (16) To convey strong emotion with almost no words *Wall-E*'s animators studied the movements of machines like NASA's Mars Rover and watched silent films and those with little dialogue such as *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

(17) Pixar's films have impressed critics as well as audiences. (18) In fact its movies have won 205 Academy Awards Golden Globes and other top film prizes.

EXPLORING ONLINE

http://www.pixar.com/behind_the_scenes/

The site, "Behind the Scenes," offers a quick tour of the Pixar process through the experience of the director, artists, and technicians who work on a film and bring it to life.

EXPLORING ONLINE

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/607/01/>

Quick rules for commas and review.

http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/commas_fillin.htm

Interactive quiz: Where have all the commas gone?

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*Blue
writing*