



EOC Comma Practice
Practice #4: Between Complete Thoughts

When two complete thoughts (CLAUSES) are combined by a co-coordinating conjunction such as and, but or so, a comma is used before the joining word. NOTE: **THERE MUST BE A SUBJECT & VERB ON BOTH SIDES OF THE JOINING WORD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Example: In the poem *Dreams Deferred*, the poet uses metaphor, and he uses alliteration.

1. Langston Hughes lived before the civil rights movement so he knew what problems African-Americans faced.
2. He wrote many poems but one of his most famous is *Dreams Deferred*.
3. In this poem he asks questions about what frustrated people might do and he gives several examples.
4. He says some dreams will basically rot but some will explode into violence – or oblivion.
5. Another of his famous poems is along the same line but it is called simply *Dreams*.
6. In *Dreams* Hughes compares lost dreams to fields and he also compares them to hurt birds.
7. Perhaps one of his most powerful poems is *Sympathy* but it is also harder to understand.
8. Maya Angelou took the first line of *Sympathy* and she used it for her book, titled I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.
9. Interestingly enough, Lorraine Hainsbury also took a line from a Hughes poem but she used it to entitle a play – A Raisin in the Sun.
10. Encourage others to read these classic literary works, or encourage them to explore other Langston Hughes poems.

REVIEW

1. Langston Hughes Maya Angelou Lorraine Hainsbury – these are all famous American writers.
2. Besides these African-American writers, the United States has many other world renowned authors.
3. Edgar Allan Poe the father of the mystery story has fans around the world.
4. Poe was a master at using alliteration symbolism assonance and imagery to create horrific moods.
5. When you read a spooky Poe story late at night you may not want to climb the dark stairs to your bed!