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Dear Mr. Comma

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Journal

The Vernal Pool, 2(2)

Author

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Publication Date

2016

DOI

10.5070/V322029513

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DEAR MR. COMMA



THE VERNAL POOL
ISSUE FOUR, SPRING 2016

5200 North Lake Road
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15 December 2015

Mr. Comma Rule
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Dear Mr. Comma:

Let's make things clear—you seem unimportant to me. Do I need to pause when I use you? Why should you be important to me? When I write, you become this barrier preventing me from saying things immediately and the sentences seem to string on forever. So what is it about you that's so important? Tell me Mr. Comma, tell me!

Come by anytime Mr. Comma and explain this to me. Let's argue about why you don't seem important, but I assure you won't win. And when you lose you'll realize how ridiculous, dumb, and even heinous your ideas are. Stop torturing us already Mr. Comma, you don't deserve to have a spot in the Grammatical Rule Hall of Fame. Dr. Period, the greatest grammatical genius, is the one deserving of a spot. I actually spoke to him recently and he said he hates your ink. But I tried to defend you. Here's how our conversation went:

“Mr. Comma is a loser. He doesn’t even have a PhD. He’s a short stop. He neither rolls with the flow nor stops in order to pop. What ridiculous fool just stops for a brief moment?”

“Dr. Period, I understand that Mr. Comma doesn’t come to a full-stop, but he means well. He wants to have us stop briefly but to keep that ball rolling. Please Dr. Period, reconsider your comments.”

“Ha! Mr. Comma is a ridiculous tool. I would slash his curve and make him a line. He would be living with the dashes and hyphens. That’s how those “other” two came to be. They were slashed and became nothing but lines. No one knows who they are now. That’ll happen to Mr. Comma if he doesn’t change his way.”

After my attempted defense Mr. Comma, I wrote to you. But your response was so absurd. You make these comma rules, yet you don’t even use them correctly. And when you do, it annoys the crap out of me. Look at what you wrote to me:

Hello, my Dear Nick, it seems that you sent your response, and I hated it because I have no intentions on changing my ways, except for a price, that is I can’t remove my rules or my ways, simply because what I think is more important than what you think.

What an absurd way to reply to someone who’s trying to help. You refuse to allow someone to help you. I should call Dr. Period and tell him that he was right, and that you Mr. Comma have to

go. Not only this, but your ideology is spreading like wildfire. Your commas are blinding people. You have your damn commas on the eyes of letters like “don’t, can’t, and won’t.” They can’t see Mr. Comma. You’ve blinded them all from this world.

I don’t think we’re in Liberal, Kansas anymore—you know where Dorothy from the *Wizard of Oz* is from—because the crapper is about to get well ... crappier. Anyways, when I first came across you as a young child I didn’t even know you existed. I thought you were a myth but everyone kept telling me that you had some sort of magical effect on people and writing. Yet, with about 7,300,000,000 people in this world do you really expect me to believe that you can affect all of them. Pathetic Mr. Comma, just pathetic. Honestly, who in their right mind would use a line that’s curved in their writing? You make us stop, but *nooo* it’s not even a full stop. It’s a quick stop, a short stop—this isn’t baseball you know. Go back to the DMV and wait in those terrible lines, and maybe you’ll actually get your license to be a period. That’s right, a period. You should learn to drive the sentences more because a period does. Heck, your great Uncle Semicolon knows how to drive a sentence. Oh, did I say too much? Well suck it up!

I don’t understand you Mr. Comma. You either separate families or come in between something where you’re just not needed. You’re like a virus that places itself in an environment; no one wants to come near you. Maybe a better comparison is that one creepy door-to-door salesperson who just won’t leave unless you buy their broken product. You come in between words like “cat, dog, and bed” or in between two independent sentences like “he

understood commas, but hated them at the same time.” You place your little curves in between each words and sentences. You make a list that’s nice and orderly. Well Mr. Comma, what if they don’t want to be nice and orderly? Who are you, Jolly Old Saint Nicholas? Are you making your list, checking it twice, only to realize everyone is naughty and not nice? Did you come from a dysfunctional family? We have places you can go to get help. Hey, I don’t think you came from a dysfunctional family. You’re just plain evil. You make short sentences longer, long sentences even longer, and you make two sentences come together. Not only are you trying to separate families, but you’re forcing words, phrases, and sentences into arranged marriages. Well up yours Mr. Comma! You force two sentences into a marriage by adding your idiotic curve, then you drag a poor defenseless conjunction into the field. Those poor defenseless conjunctions, how dare you. No more Mr. Comma, no more.

You torture us Mr. Comma. We’re not at Guantanamo Bay! Quit drowning us; STOP WITH YOUR INHUMANE TREATMENT. We just want to stop and catch our breath for once. Your counterargument is that commas give us that pause. Does it really? Really Mr. Comma, does it? Picture this, in the real world people don’t stop at your designated times when they speak. When we speak from the heart Mr. Comma, we don’t stop. Imagine you’re on the podium giving an unprecedented speech. You have your speech in hand and ready to go, but of course since you’re a Department Head you’re probably great at public speaking, but even if you’re not let’s assume you are. You’re not

directly reading the speech. What does this mean Mr. Comma? It means you can pause whenever you want to without a damn comma to indicate the pause. That's the thing you don't need commas to tell yourself when to catch a breath, because you're not huffing and puffing, trying to blow a damn house down. You're speaking from the heart, speaking about something passionate, you're just speaking. Even if commas are present in the speech, you don't need them. Your ridiculous ideas are just ridiculous. You can't force your ideologies down our throats! That's right Mr. Comma, your comma usage is an ideology and I don't think other ideologues are going to like you.

Writing this letter, I suddenly realized that you deserve no place in history. And you certainly deserve no place in the writing process or the writing world. This is everyone's world, not just yours. Your kingdom will fall and you will crumble. *DOWN WITH COMMAS!*

Always Hating Your Guts,

Nick Lee