



Informational  
Text Pack  
for September

**Coffee** *with*  
**Punctuation**  
by Margaret Whisnant



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# Punctuation Rules!

by Margaret Whisnant

**Note:** This is the second section and part of the third of *Punctuation Rules!* The full product is three pages.

## The First Punctuators Make Their Marks

The ancient Greeks (800 BCE to 146 BCE) started the whole thing. Their first texts had neither punctuation nor spaces between words, making them difficult to read. Around the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE, playwrights began adding stacked dots (: or :) in their scripts as prompts to help actors with phrasing. Then they began inserting single dots at varying heights to mark dramatic pauses. Public speakers—politician, philosophers, etc.—also liked punctuation. The Romans, who came along in the 1st century BCE, adopted the Greek system, and it continued as the orator’s standard for around 500 years.

Thus, the ancient ancestors of our punctuation marks were for talking, not reading and writing. Of course, there were no punctuation rule books. Not yet. . .

## We Get Some Punctuation Vocabulary

While they were working on spoken phrasing and drama, the Greeks and Romans were also creating some of our modern punctuation vocabulary.

- The Greek word *koptein*, meaning “a little knife” or “to cut off” became the Latin word *comma*, meaning “piece which is cut off.” Our English derivative, *comma* (spelled exactly the same), is very appropriate since it “cuts off” part of a sentence and sets it apart from the rest.

# Punctuation Rules!

by Margaret Whisnant

## Questions

Refer to the text to answer the following questions. Write answers in the spaces provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Which quote from the article best summarizes its main idea?
- (A) *We need punctuation!*
  - (B) *While they were working on spoken phrasing and drama, the Greeks and Romans were also creating some of our modern punctuation vocabulary.*
  - (C) *Much of the rejected punctuation is still around but with much different jobs.*
  - (D) *In 2004, writer Jeff Rubin got fed up with seeing so much bad punctuation in newspaper articles and books.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which of the following is **not** a detail that supports the text's main idea?
- (A) Punctuation can change the meaning of a sentence.
  - (B) English punctuation began in ancient Greece as signals for speakers.
  - (C) The diple and manicule are no longer used as punctuation.
  - (D) Standard punctuation was very important after the invention of the printing press.

3. Why did Greek playwrights begin adding punctuation to their scripts?

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*Punctuation Rules!* has 15 CCSS aligned questions.

# Let's Go for Coffee

by Margaret Whisnant



With each sunrise, millions of people get together for coffee. Many of them meet in coffeehouses, especially in the famous chain that serves its brews in almost 25,000 stores in 64 countries. All around the world, people chat over coffee from morning to night. Ideas are exchanged, and deals are made.

Social coffee drinking is not a modern invention. Neither are coffeehouses. Their intertwined histories go back at least 1600 years.

## Coffee and People Get Together

Long before there were coffeehouses, there were wild coffee plants growing in the highlands of Ethiopia, a country in East Africa. The beans they produced had a strange, exhilarating effect on any critter who ate them, including humans. Exactly how people discovered the powers of coffee beans is lost to legend. Someone could have eaten them by accident or observed the behavior of animals that ate them. Whatever the method, coffee and people got together sometime during the 13<sup>th</sup> century (1201-1300). By the 14<sup>th</sup> century, residents of Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula were cultivating the plant and using its berries to make a drink. Coffee growing and drinking soon migrated to the rest of the Middle East, Persia (now Iran), Turkey, and into northern Africa.

The full article is three pages.

# Let's Go for Coffee

by Margaret Whisnant

## Questions

Refer to the text to answer the following questions. Write all answers in the spaces provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The central idea developed in this informational text is
- (A) how coffee drinking spread around the world.
  - (B) the historical importance of coffeehouses.
  - (C) the intertwined history of coffee and coffeehouses.
  - (D) the purpose of International Coffee Day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which sentence *best* summarizes the purpose of the subheading **Coffeehouses Spring into Action in the Middle East** as it relates to the full text?
- (A) *The people of the Middle East were the first to drink coffee and the first to build coffeehouses.*
  - (B) *Both fit perfectly into their society.*
  - (C) *Drinking alcoholic beverages was strictly forbidden for religious reasons. . .*
  - (D) *In 1475 they opened the world's first coffeehouse in the Turkish city of Constantinople (Now, Istanbul).*

3. Use textual information to explain the significance of the following phrases:

Schools of the Wise \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

the wine of Araby \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

the bitter invention of Satan \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

penny universities \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This article has 12 CCSS aligned questions