

***Punctuate correctly; explain your punctuation.***

1) However you looked at it{,} the interior of the dictionary maker{s} house was unusual.

*This sentence opens with an introductory dependent clause (a subordinate clause) that should be separated from the main clause. "Maker's" is possessive and thus needs an apostrophe.*

2) At first glance it was overflowing{,} with hard-bound books{;} however, at second glance, other details became apparent.

*The first comma is just silly; don't separate the verb, "was overflowing," from the prepositional phrase that follows. The conjunctive adverb "however" opens a second independent clause and should be punctuated in this manner. The comma after "glance" is a judgment call. Make the call.*

3) However{,} many you looked at{,} pictures, knick knacks, sculptured bookends, wall hangings{,} curtains{,} and rugs displayed similar designs.

*Here "however" is not a conjunctive adverb, just an adverb, and opens a dependent clause that should be set apart. The additional commas are needed to make the list readable (with the final comma, as ever, a judgment call).*

4) The design{,} however, was unlike standard decorative motifs.

*Here "however" is not joining two independent clauses and should be set apart with commas.*

5) The lexicographer had a rich word hoard of knowledge{;} however, his decorative taste was simple and uncompromising.

*Here "however" is separating two independent clauses, thus the punctuation.*

6) Throughout the house he had repeated~~{,}~~ variations of two words{:} “how” and “ever.”

*The first comma is wrong; it separated the verb from its object. I have left out a comma after the introductory phrase “throughout the house,” but it could certainly be included. I have used a colon to introduce “‘how’ and ‘ever,’” but you might use a comma instead.*

7) “How” and “ever” are fine words; however{:} if repeated{:} they lack a certain intrigue.

*The first comma is necessary after the conjunctive adverb “however.” The second comma is a judgment call.*

8) However~~{,}~~ much his family asked him to diversify, the lexicographer{:} however he tried, could not agree.

*“However” introduces two dependent clauses; it does not operate as a conjunctive adverb; therefore, I’ve set apart the first introductory clause with a comma, and I’ve set apart the second dependent clause parenthetically.*

9) They had hoped that on his sixtieth birthday he might begin to branch out.

*This looks like a perfectly well punctuated sentence to me. I suppose if you wanted to be rhetorical, you might set “on his sixtieth birthday” apart with commas.*

10) He didn’t see the need, however; which was unfortunate.

*This is a lovely, unusual sentence; it is well punctuated.*