

What I expect you to have read carefully for Next Week's Examination

- Naomi Baron's "Commas and Canaries"
- The *Guide to Punctuation*
- The first chapter of Tufte
- The "Syntactical Structures" handout under *handouts* on the blog

What you will need to know for Next Week's Examination

The first examination covers material that we have gone over in these first three weeks. You can expect a variety of questions on grammar, punctuation, and the history of punctuation.

Grammar. Be prepared to identify dependent clauses. I will not ask you to differentiate between subordinate and relative clauses, which are both dependent, but that ability will be useful in the future. I will ask you to differentiate between phrases and clauses. If I point out a group of words, be prepared to identify whether it is a phrase or clause. Be prepared to identify subjects, main verbs, and direct objects within clauses and sentences.

Punctuation. Know standard punctuation as it pertains to the **comma** (commas with adjectives, between independent clauses, with restrictive and non-restrictive wording, with parenthetical wording, with introductory phrases & clauses, with concluding phrases and clauses, with contrasting wording, and with omitted material). Understand the strategic choices offered by *which* and *that*. Understand agreement between implied and actual subjects. Understand the comma don'ts.

Know standard punctuation as it pertains to the semicolon and colon. Be able to differentiate between occasions which call for dashes vs. parentheses. Understand the proper use of apostrophes. Finally, be able to punctuate around quotation marks and citations.

Understand how to use standard punctuation, but also understand how to think about the decisions that stand behind the punctuation. I will be asking you to write about these decisions.

History of Punctuation. Be able to discuss in broad terms the difference between grammatical and rhetorical punctuation. Have an understanding of word spacing and punctuation used in early Latin and Greek texts. Be able to describe how medieval Irish and English scribes developed their ability to write manuscripts in

Latin first, then Irish and English, and how this development stumbled toward modern punctuation. Be able to discuss reasons why the printing press was significant if not decisive in moving the written record toward modern punctuation.

This will not be a short test; however, you should have plenty of time to complete it in an hour and 50 minutes.