

Answer Key: The Magi Comma Practice Worksheet

1. **Correct the error in the sentence:**

2. **Incorrect:**

"They brought with them gifts gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

3. **Corrected:**

"They brought with them gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

4. **Explanation:**

Use a colon (:) after the word "gifts" to introduce the list of items. A colon is appropriate here because the list follows a statement.

5. **Choose the correct sentence:**

6. **Incorrect options:**

- *"Each of the Magi Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar offered a gift."
(Missing commas between the names.)*
- *"Each of the Magi, Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar, offered a gift."
(Comma missing before "and" in the list.)*

7. **Correct answer:**

"Each of the Magi, Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, offered a gift."

8. **Explanation:**

The comma before "and" is needed in a list of three or more items (Oxford comma), which is part of the standard punctuation rule for lists.

9. **Correct the run-on sentence:**

10. **Incorrect:**

"The Magi followed a star that led them to Bethlehem, they knew the star would guide them to the newborn King."

11. **Corrected:**

"The Magi followed a star that led them to Bethlehem. They knew the star would guide them to the newborn King."

(or)

"The Magi followed a star that led them to Bethlehem, for they knew the star would guide them to the newborn King."

12. **Explanation:**

This is a run-on sentence because two independent clauses are incorrectly joined by a comma. To correct it, either split the sentence into two sentences or use a coordinating conjunction (like "for") to join the clauses properly.

13. **Identify and correct the error in the sentence:**

14. **Incorrect:**

"They found the child, they worshipped him, and they presented their gifts."

15. **Corrected:**

"They found the child; they worshipped him, and they presented their gifts."

16. **Explanation:**

The comma after "child" is a comma splice, where two independent clauses are incorrectly joined.

The clauses should be separated by a semicolon, or a period could be used instead. The comma after "worshipped him" is correct because it separates items in a list of actions.

Summary of Corrections:

- Use colons to introduce lists.
- Use commas to separate items in a list (Oxford comma).
- Avoid run-on sentences by using proper punctuation (semicolon or conjunction).
- Be careful of comma splices when joining independent clauses (use semicolons or conjunctions).