COMMA RULES 1, 2, & 3: EXERCISE #1

DIRECTIONS: Insert commas where they are needed.

1. Edgar Allan Poe is a beloved American author, poet, and editor.

2. He practiced the art of short story, invented the detective fiction genre, and contributed greatly to the genre of science fiction.

3. Poe's influence on popular culture can be seen in literature, music, films, and television.

4. One can also see his influence in areas such as cosmology, cryptography, and other specialized fields.

5. His early life, military career, and publishing career each had their own difficulties.

6. Losing his parents at a young age, being plagued by gambling debts, and watching his wife die of tuberculosis undoubtedly left him with many haunting memories.

7. Some of his most well-known poems include poems about bells, a raven, and a city in the sea.

8. His father abandoned their family, his mother died of consumption, and then he was taken into the home of John Allan.

9. Baltimore and Philadelphia and New York City were all cities in which he lived.

10. Alcohol, cholera, heart disease, and tuberculosis are all suggested causes of Poe's death in 1849.

DIRECTIONS: The sentence below is not parallel. Rewrite it.

The release of his first book, enlisting in the Army, and a time of service at Fort Independence were all part of the year 1827 for Edgar Allan Poe.

Answers may vary. Possible answer: Releasing his first book, enlisting in the army, and serving for a time at Fort Independence were all part of the year 1827 for Edgar Allan Poe.
COMMA RULES 1, 2, & 3: EXERCISE #2

NAME: ___________________________________ DATE: ______________________

DIRECTIONS: *Insert commas where they are needed.*

1. Edgar became engaged to Sara Elmira Royster, and then he enrolled in the University of Virginia.

2. This school had strict rules against gambling, guns, tobacco, and alcohol, but these rules were generally ignored.

3. It allowed students to choose their own studies, make their own boarding arrangements, and report all wrongdoing to the faculty.

4. This unique, chaotic system had a high dropout rate.

5. Without today's modern accessible technology, he lost touch with his quiet, gentle fiance while away at school.

6. It was a long, exhausting year, and Poe chose to leave the university at the end of 1827.

7. He then moved to Boston and supported himself with odd jobs as a clerk and newspaper writer.

8. His first book was released that year, but it received virtually no attention.

9. Poe was later court-martialed and he was tried for refusing to attend formation classes or church.

10. He pled not guilty, yet he knew he would still be found guilty.

DIRECTIONS: *The sentence below is not parallel. Rewrite it.* The death of a parent, moving to a new city, and to release a new book must have been a lot for Poe to handle all in one year.

*Answers may vary. Possible answer:* The death of a parent, a move to a new city, and the release of a new book must have been a lot for Poe to handle all in one year.
COMMA RULES 1, 2, & 3: EXERCISE #3

NAME: ___________________________ DATE: ________________________

DIRECTIONS: In each sentence below there is a COMMA SPLIT. Write the number which is under the comma split in the space at the left. Then in the space below each sentence, write what the comma is splitting.

EXAMPLE:

__3__ The happy, carefree, enthusiastic kids, enjoyed the picnic.

1             2                            3

splits subject and verb

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____ 2__ 1. His earnest, heartfelt attempts to start a career began during a difficult, time.

1                                                                 2

splits modifier and its noun

____ 1__ 2. The world of publishing, was a corrupt, dishonest, humiliating business.

1                     2               3

splits subject and verb

____ 1__ 3. He published, numerous articles, stories, and reviews.

1                            2           3

splits verb and direct object

____ 2__ 4. His many difficult, heart-wrenching life experiences gave him, a reason to write.

1                                                                     2

splits indirect object and direct object

____ 2__ 5. Many of the frequent, recurring themes in his poems were, disturbing.

1                                                          2

splits linking verb and complement

DIRECTIONS: Create your own sentence to accompany each of the following comma rules.

Answers will vary.

1. ITEMS IN A SERIES: use commas to separate items in a series of grammatical equals. This may be a series of nouns, verbs, prepositional phrases, adjective clauses, etc.

___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

2. TWO ADJECTIVES with "AND TEST": you SOMETIMES use a comma to separate two or more adjectives preceding a noun.

___________________________________________________________________________________
3. **COMPOUND SENTENCE:** use a comma before the conjunction when it joins independent clauses (or sentences).