

Worksheet 1: Commas

Name _____ **Date** _____

Read the following paragraphs carefully. Add commas where they are missing. After the commas have been added, follow the directions that follow the paragraphs.

Tsunami

¹On April Fool's Day in 1946 Hilo a city on the island of Hawaii was struck with a natural disaster a tsunami. ²Getting the last of their early morning catch fishermen noticed a change in the sea. ³Suddenly the ocean rushed out leaving fish and boats stranded on the bare sand. ⁴The fishermen who were aware of the impending danger rushed to shore to warn the town of the approaching disaster. ⁵A tsunami was about to hit Hilo.

⁶Within minutes a wave that had traveled 2,5000 miles from the Aleutian Islands which are located in Alaska came crashing into Hilo. ⁷Killing one hundred fifty-nine people and causing millions of dollars in damage the tsunami virtually destroyed the city of Hilo. ⁸A tsunami a powerful devastating wave occurs when water is suddenly displaced. ⁹It is not caused by the tides and it is not a tidal wave.

¹⁰Detecting tsunamis is a very difficult thing to do. ¹¹When a wave begins in the deep oceans it may only have a height of about twelve to twenty-three inches. ¹²This wave may look like nothing more than the gentle rise and fall of the sea surface. ¹³Its magnitude is known as it approaches the shoreline.

¹⁴In 1896 fishermen who were twenty miles out to sea off the coast of Honshu Japan did not notice the wave pass under their boats. ¹⁵Having only the height at the time of about fifteen inches the power of the wave was not felt. ¹⁶When they returned to port they were totally unprepared for the devastation that awaited them. ¹⁷Twenty-eight thousand people were killed and 170 miles of coastline were destroyed. ¹⁸This natural disaster was caused by the wave that passed gently under them at sea.

[Source: <http://observe.ivv.nasa.gov/nasa/exhibits/tsunamis>]

Directions:

1. Write the numbers of any three sentences that are *simple sentences*:
2. Write the numbers of any three sentences that have *appositives* or *participial phrases*:

3. Write the numbers of any three sentences that are *complex sentences*:

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