

# Punctuation Task Cards



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## Instructions for Making the Cards

1. Print the question cards onto heavy weight paper or cardstock.
2. Laminate for repeated use.
3. Cut the cards apart.

## Using the Cards

I recommend reviewing the rules for adding **commas, dashes, and parentheses** to text before completing this exercise. One way to do this is to have students make the foldable graphic organizer found in the "[Chapter 17 Blog Post](#)" published on August 24, 2015.

The task cards contain passages from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. In the first set; commas, dashes, and parentheses have been omitted. In the second set, the sentences are printed just as L. Frank Baum wrote them in his novel. The second set is intended to be used as an answer key.

Students are to rewrite the sentences adding punctuation marks [commas, dashes, or parentheses] to set off the non-restrictive clauses. A printable has been included for doing this.

\*\*\*It is important to understand that, with this skill, it is the writer's judgment as to whether commas, dashes, or parentheses should be used. I feel the focus should be more on identifying the non-restrictive clauses, and knowing the clauses should be isolated from the rest of the sentence using one of the three punctuation marks.

In grading the finished results, I would count sentences correct if students, for example, use commas – in place of dashes – to set off the non-restrictive clause.

Dorothy lived in the midst of the great Kansas prairies, with Uncle Henry who was a farmer and Aunt Em who was the farmer's wife.



#1

Those who dwelt in the East and the West were, indeed, wicked witches; but now that you have killed one of them, there is but one Wicked Witch in all the Land of Oz the one who lives in the West.

#2

"Won't you go with me?" pleaded the girl who had begun to look upon the little old woman as her only friend.



#3

Then, before he could pull it out again or let go the raft was swept away, and the poor Scarecrow left clinging to the pole in the middle of the river.



#4

After a few hours the road began to be rough, and the walking grew so difficult that the Scarecrow often stumbled over the yellow bricks which were here very uneven.

#5

The other birds seeing he was not harmed by me came to eat the corn too, so in a short time there was a great flock of them about me.

#6

The Tin Woodman was about to reply when he heard a low growl, and turning his head which worked beautifully on hinges he saw a strange beast come bounding over the grass toward them.

#7

If the elephants and the tigers and the bears had ever tried to fight me, I should have run myself I'm such a coward; but just as soon as they hear me roar they all try to get away from me, and of course I let them go."

#8

"If your heads were stuffed with straw like mine you would probably all live in the beautiful places, and then Kansas would have no people at all. It is fortunate for Kansas that you have brains."

#9

The Scarecrow who was never tired stood up in another corner and waited patiently until morning came.



#10

It was, indeed, a great yellow Wildcat, and the Woodman thought it must be chasing something, for its ears were lying close to its head and its mouth was wide open showing two rows of ugly teeth while its red eyes glowed like balls of fire.

#11

"Only a mouse!" cried the little animal, indignantly. "Why, I am a Queen the Queen of all the Field Mice!"

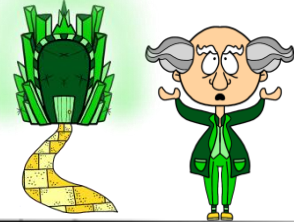


#12



They passed by several of these houses during the afternoon, and sometimes people came to the doors and looked at them as if they would like to ask questions; but no one came near them nor spoke to them because of the great Lion of which they were very much afraid. #13

There were many people men, women, and children walking about, and these were all dressed in green clothes and had greenish skins.



#14

"I do not know," said the Head; "but that is my answer, and until the Wicked Witch dies you will not see your uncle and aunt again. Remember that the Witch is Wicked tremendously Wicked and ought to be killed. #15

But to the Lion's surprise he could make no impression on the tin, although the Woodman fell over in the road and lay still.



#16

So when they were rested Dorothy picked up her basket and they started along the grassy bank, to the road from which the river had carried them.



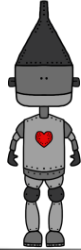
#17

You will remember there was no road not even a pathway between the castle of the Wicked Witch and the Emerald City.



#18

So they lay down among the sweet smelling yellow flowers and slept soundly until morning all but the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman.



#19

"I am Oz, the Great and Terrible," said the little man, in a trembling voice. "But don't strike me please don't and I'll do anything you want me to."



#20

Then they all looked at the river and saw the Scarecrow perched upon his pole in the middle of the water looking very lonely and sad.

#21

There were big yellow and white and blue and purple blossoms besides great clusters of scarlet poppies which were so brilliant in color they almost dazzled Dorothy's eyes.

#22

"Oh, thank you thank you!" cried the Scarecrow. "I'll find a way to use them, never fear!"



#23

Your brain may not be so large to look at as those of the Scarecrow, but you are really brighter than he is when you are well polished and I am sure you will rule the Winkies wisely and well."

#24



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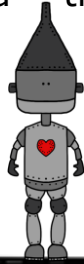
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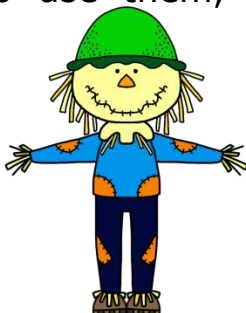
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## Punctuation Recording Sheet

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