

Name: _____ Date: _____ #: _____

10.2.46 & 10.2.47: Punctuating Personality

As a life-long learner, I will...

(L.2) review and extend my prior knowledge of punctuation

(L.3) analyze punctuation in a monologue and understand its role in enhancing voice

(L.3a) use punctuation in a monologue to enhance voice and create an effect

Directions: Using your Grammar Handbook, identify the punctuation marks below and describe their function.

| Mark | Name | Purpose/Function |
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Think about how you use punctuation to express yourself. Then complete the sentence frame below.

I identify myself as a(n) _____ because _____.

Monologue

About the Author

As a playwright, author, and acting coach, Debbie Lamedman has helped many teens explore their own interest in CTING. Debbie Lamedman is the editor of *The Ultimate Audition Book for Teens by Teens*. She has also performed in regional theaters around the country. Lamedman's first play, *phat girls*, was published in an anthology of best plays for 2003 and it has been performed in numerous theaters.

Brace Yourself

by Debbie Lamedman

KATIE HAS JUST GOTTEN BRACES PUT ON HER TEETH, AND SHE IS MISERABLE. AS HER FATHER TRIES TO CHEER HER UP, KATIE REFUSES TO FEEL BETTER ABOUT THE SITUATION.

KATIE:

Don't look at me... and don't make me laugh... I look hideous.

I don't care if everyone I know has them. I care that I won't be able to eat solid food for the next two years. I care that every school picture will be of some FREAK.

What do you mean it'll be worth it? My teeth weren't so bad – it's not like I had this huge overbite or anything. I could have lived with it. You and Mom always taught me to embrace the differences – well I would have embraced by crooked teeth, if only you had let me.

But now they're going to be perfect and straight and I'm not sure all this suffering is worth it, Dad... plus I'm in a lot of pain...

Well, I guess a chocolate milkshake would taste good right now – it won't involve chewing. (Pause).

Okay, I'll let you buy me one... but don't think that's going to put me in a good mood. I plan on being miserable for the next two years and I'm not gonna smile until these things are off and my teeth are no longer being held hostage.

And Dad... you say one day I'll thank you, but we'll just see about that. If that day comes... I'll buy you a milkshake.

Monologue

The Crush

by Debbie Lamedman

NICHOLE CONFRONTS ANDREW, A GUY SHE'S ADMIRING FROM AFAR, AND TELLS HIM HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT HIM.

NICHOLE:

My friend Janet has a zoom lens on her camera so she took your picture when you weren't looking. I got it blown up and it's hanging over my bed. I hope you don't think that's weird, but I think you're...gorgeous. I mean, you look like a movie star or something. (Pause.) Oh God, I'm totally humiliating myself, aren't I?

I don't know how I got the nerve to come talk to you, but I just couldn't stand it anymore. I had to tell you how I feel.

Yeah...I know I don't even know you, but I'd like to get to know you. I guess what I'm trying to do is ask you out on a date. Maybe you think the guy is the one who is supposed to ask, but let's face it—you didn't even know I existed until two minutes ago so I thought I'd better make the first move.

I'm freaking you out? Why?

Oh, the picture thing? Hey, I'm harmless—look I have a crush on you—what's the big deal? You should be flattered.

I'm not a stalker!

Well you don't have to be such a jerk about it. I don't think I'd go out with you now even if you begged me. And you're not as good-looking as I thought you were.

(Calling after him as he walks away.) And I'm definitely taking your picture off my wall. *(Pause.)* Men!

Monologue

The Job Interview by Debbie Lamedman

HEATHER IS INTERVIEWING FOR HER FIRST JOB AS A WAITRESS AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT.

HEATHER:

Well, no...I don't have any experience, but how hard could it possibly be, right? You take an order—when it's ready you bring it to them. I do that all the time at home. My family is constantly ordering me to bring them things.

Tray service? You mean carrying food out on one of those big trays? *(Pause.)*

Yeah! I could do that. I'm really strong. I may not look it, but I did five chin-ups for the physical fitness test at school—that's like a record.

You want to hire me? That's great!

Okay, what's my schedule? Let's see...well, I can't work on Friday or Saturday nights because I just got a boyfriend and well...ya know...I gotta have a social life. I really can't work weeknights because I'll have homework, and my parents wouldn't like it too much if I was working late.

(Thinking.) Um...Sunday is family day so that's out. I'm finished with school by 2:30 but I'll need to eat and destress from the day, so I could probably start my shift at 3:30 or 4 and work until 6 or 6:30-7 at the absolute latest. I could work Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoons, but sometimes I have after-school activities so you'll need to be flexible....

But otherwise, I'm totally available. So...when would you like me to start?

Monologue

The Date

by Debbie Lamedman

JOHNNY IS INTERESTED IN DATING MARIE. HOWEVER, HE IS FORCED TO DEAL WITH HER BROTHER FRANK TO GET HIS PERMISSION.

JOHNNY:

If I knew Marie was your sister, I would have never asked her out. Nothing's wrong with her. She's great. That's why I want to go out with her. But I don't need any more enemies, so if you'd rather I didn't date her, I won't.

Wait a minute, first you get on me for wanting to take her out, and now you're on me for not wanting to? What are you trying to do, drive me crazy?

Yes. I want to take out your sister. I didn't realize I needed to ask your permission. But here goes...

Frank, may I have the honor of taking out your sister Marie this Saturday night?

I solemnly swear that I am not a pervert and I will be a perfect gentleman and have her home by one. Okay...twelve. Eleven? Don't ya think that's kinda early for a weekend?

Okay, okay. I'll have her home by—how's eleven thirty—that's a nice compromise, right? Good. Okay. Thanks, Frank. Thanks a lot. Thanks for letting me date your sister.

(Aside.) Jeez, I'm surprised he didn't make me sign a contract. I hope he doesn't put out a contract—on me!

Monologue

OFF THE COURT

by Debbie Lamedman

CHRIS EXPLAINS TO HIS FATHER THAT HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN PLAYING ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM HIS FATHER IS COACHING AND HE WOULD MUCH RATHER BE A MUSICIAN.

CHRIS:

Look Dad, I don't know how to tell you this...so I'm just gonna say it—I think it's great that you're coaching the basketball team. I think you'll be a great coach, but...I don't want to be on the team.

No! It has nothing to do with you! See—that's what I'm talking about. YOU want me to be on the team. YOU want me to be a great basketball player, but you never asked me what I want. I don't even like basketball. I'm not good at it and I probably never will be. You've never asked me what I'm good at. Just because you're good at sports doesn't mean I am. And what I really want to do is study music. That's what I'm good at, Dad, and that's what I want to do.

I want to play piano—classical or jazz—any kind of music, really. I just want to get really, really good at it. I want to be the best piano player there ever was and I want to compose my own stuff and play concerts and everything...

C'mon Dad—don't be mad. You wouldn't be proud of a son who was lousy on the court, but think how proud you'll be when you see me playing at Carnegie Hall.

Monologue

Dinner GUEST

by Debbie Lamedman

GREG IS HAVING DINNER AT HIS GIRLFRIEND CINDY'S HOUSE. CINDY HAS PREPARED A MEAL THAT IS ABSOLUTELY AWFUL. GREG TRIES TO BE AS POLITE AND TACTFUL AS POSSIBLE REGARDING CINDY'S COOKING BECAUSE HE WANTS TO CONTINUE DATING HER.

GREG:

So...Cindy...this is really good. Seriously, I had no idea you were such a great cook. You could probably become a famous chef or something—that's how good you are.

I never really ate anything like this before. What do you call this dish again?

Ohhhh. "Cindy's Experiment." Ohhhh. So, what's in it? I mean, how did you get it to be this sort of greenish color?

I see...that's your little secret...not gonna share the recipe with anybody. Okay.

What? Oh no, no thanks. No seconds for me—I'm so full I couldn't eat another bite. I want to, but I ate a really big lunch, and I'm really *stuffed*. But thanks, anyway.

Oh—there's dessert? Well, that's cool. I love dessert—I suppose I could make room for that. What did you make for dessert? Chocolate cake? Apple pie?

You call it "Cindy's Surprise?" Wow. It looks...wow...it's really sort of purple, isn't it? (*Pause.*)

Not too big of a piece now...remember, I'm really full. But it looks great. Just great. I can't wait to taste it.

A CLOSE READING OF TEXT

| SOAPSTone | Response | Textual Support |
|--|----------|-----------------|
| <u>Speaker:</u> Who is the speaker? | | |
| <u>Occasion:</u> What is the social, cultural, historical, geographical context of the text? | | |
| <u>Audience:</u> Who is the target audience? | | |
| <u>Purpose:</u> What is the message of the text? Why was it written? | | |
| <u>Subject:</u> What is the text about? What is the theme? | | |
| <u>Tone:</u> What is the speaker's attitude toward the subject? | | |

From **“There’s Got to be a Better Way”**

Here is a monologue with all of the punctuation removed.

Work with a partner to re-punctuate the text.

Ma'am I replaced the first burger free cause it didn't taste right to you And the second burger cause you said it wasn't cooked enough Now you're telling me that this burger is burnt You have got to be kidding me Where do you think you are This is McDonald's We ain't serving no sirloin steak \$5.25 an hour and I gotta put up with the likes of you I'll tell you what Why don't you come back here take my greasy apron and my stupid hat and stand back here in 128 degree temperature and cook your own burger til you're satisfied Oh and hey don't forgot you gotta smile nice for all the customers while you're sweating to death and the French Fry boys are whispering perverted jokes No Doesn't sound like a good old time to you Well then I highly suggest you take that burger back to your little table eat it and think about how lucky you are that I didn't smush an apple pie in your face Have I made myself clear Thank you. Have a nice day

Ma'am, I replaced the first burger free cause it "didn't taste right" to you. And the second burger cause you said it wasn't cooked enough. Now you're telling me that this burger is burnt?! You have got to be kidding me. Where do you think you are? This is McDonald's! We ain't serving no sirloin steak! \$5.25 an hour and I gotta put up with the likes of you. I'll tell you what. Why don't you come back here, take my greasy apron and my stupid hat, and stand back here in 128 degree temperature and cook your own burger til you're satisfied. Oh, and hey, don't forgot you gotta smile nice for all the customers while you're sweating to death and the French Fry boys are whispering perverted jokes!! No? Doesn't sound like a good old time to you? Well then, I highly suggest you take that burger back to your little table, eat it, and think about how lucky you are that I didn't smush an apple pie in your face.

Have I made myself clear? Thank you. Have a nice day.