Testing Your Understanding: The Comma

Place the commas where needed in the following sentences. Cross out any misplaced commas. If the sentence is correct as written, indicate with a “C.” An answer key follows.

1. The high school cheerleaders who were all blonde were the most popular kids in school.
2. All the cheerleaders however were also honor roll students.
3. To earn extra credit students can work in the school library.
4. Everyone believed that Loretta was smart, imaginative, friendly and witty.
5. Loretta studied very hard for the test and she felt confident that she would pass.
6. I threw the filthy stinky wet shoes outside.
7. “We have the best football team around,” Cody bragged, “and our record proves it!”
8. Alice said that winning the contest made her feel like, a princess.
9. The top football team was from Des Moines Iowa.
10. After winning the state championship every student on the team was ready to celebrate.

Answers below:

Answer Key:
1. The high school cheerleaders, who were all blonde, were the most popular kids in school. (see # 5 – non-restrictive descriptive element)
2. All the cheerleaders however were also honor roll students. (see # 4 – transitional expressions)
3. To earn extra credit, students can work in the school library. (see # 3 – introductory infinitive phrase)
4. Everyone believed that Loretta was smart, imaginative, friendly, and witty. (see # 2 – comma before the final item in a list)
5. Loretta studied very hard for the test, and she felt confident that she would pass.
6. I threw the filthy, stinky, wet shoes outside, (see # 6 – comma between coordinate adjectives not joined by and)
7. “We have the best football team around,” Cody bragged, “and our record proves it!” C (see # 8 – commas to set off direct quotations)
8. Alice said that winning the contest made her feel like a princess. (see Reminder – Do not use a comma after such as or like)
9. The top football team was from Des Moines, Iowa. (see # 9)
10. After winning the state championship, every student on the team was ready to celebrate. (see # 3 – introductory dependant clause)