

## 6 Worksheet on Grammar – Commas Answer Key

Text: “A Tragedy’s Lessons”, from Düwel/Grün, *The Media*, Viewfinder Topics (München: Langenscheidt, 2011), pp. 12f.

### B MISSING COMMAS – “A TRAGEDY’S LESSONS”

Look up the missing commas in your textbook (p. 12f.).

4 explanations:

#### using rule # 1

Like in German, use a **comma between items** in a list (items which are not separated by “and”, “or” etc.):

II. 17ff. Particularly offensive have been reporters from sensational tabloids who are chasing a story replete with violence, sex, and intrigue - the stuff that these tabloids relish and on which they prosper.

👉 The comma in front of the “and” is optional.

#### using rule # 2

ONLY unnecessary relative clauses must be marked off by commas (which means that we don’t have commas here):

II. 17 ff. Particularly offensive have been reporters from sensational tabloids who are chasing a story replete with violence, sex, and intrigue - the stuff that these tabloids relish and on which they prosper.

using rule # 2

The inserted clause (*as yet unsolved*) is a parenthetical element. It can be removed without changing the essential meaning of the sentence. Such parenthetical elements should be set off by commas.

**I. 5 The case, as yet unsolved, remains headline news.**

using rule # 3

Use a comma to separate two independent clauses (there are 2 complete thoughts in this case) joined by a so-called **fanboys** conjunction (here: *and*):

**II. 1f. Lessons should be learned from tragedy, and there are lessons aplenty for our society from the cruel murder of JonBenet Ramsey.**

*(Daniela Pröls)*