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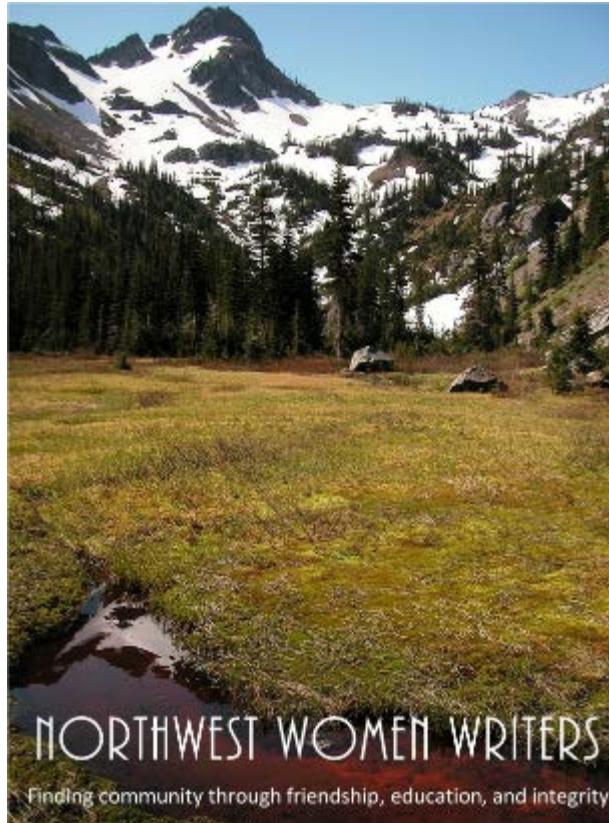
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Being An Author Series 01.10

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Eggs, Toast, and Orange Juice Or is it, Eggs, Toast and Orange Juice...

When I was contemplating this week's piece for our Being a Writer series, I happened to be reading a post on writing devices from The Write Practice blog. It's [here](#) if you'd like to enjoy it as well.

As I was reading, I came across a few areas in punctuation that gave me pause. I know, so small in the large spectrum of things and no doubt I'm over thinking it...but...if I am, maybe others are as well. So, here's the scoop:

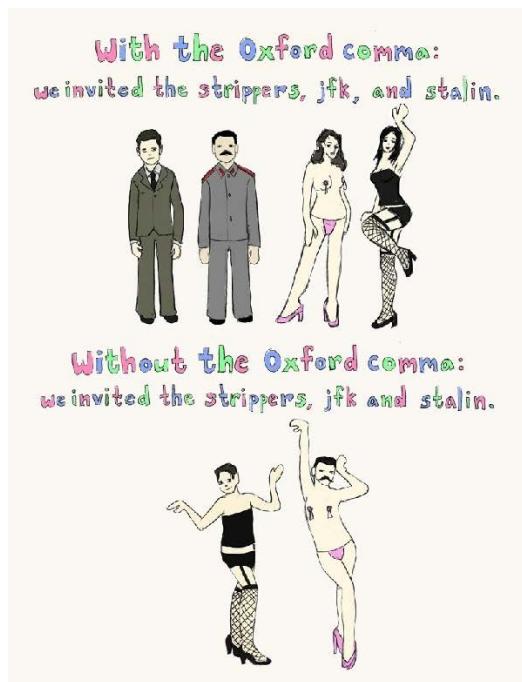
Commas: Do you use a comma in a series of three or more?

The answer: Your preference.

Commonly called the Oxford or Serial comma, this is a subject of *great* debate.

I personally feel a writer should as it prevents any chance of misunderstanding the meaning of a sentence. On the other hand, journalists in *Smithsonian* and *National Geographic* do not, and well – if only one day I could write for them... So what it boils down to is personal preference and, if you have one, your editor's style.

Here's a good article that explores this topic more in-depth: <http://heyreceiver.com/the-naik-ed-truth-an-ode-to-the-oxford-comma/>

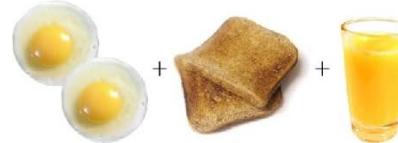


WHY I STILL USE THE OXFORD COMMA

shortee.tumblr.com

WITH:

I had eggs, toast, and orange juice.



WITHOUT:

I had eggs, toast and orange juice.



Periods: Inside or outside the quotation?

The answer: It depends on where your audience lives. Or I suppose where you do.

In American English, it's correct to put periods/commas *inside* the quotations. However, in British English, they can decide whether to put them inside or outside based on the rules of the sentence: does the punctuation go with the quote, or with the entire sentence? Much like we do with question marks and exclamation points.

So I suppose if you make a mistake – just say your English!

Oh, and on that note: if you say you are English, you are from England. If you say you are British, you are from Great Britain which includes England, Scotland, and Wales. This too, is a common mistake.

I will sign off with those simple two for today. Perhaps you learned something, perhaps not, or perhaps you had some ideas solidified. Regardless, I hope you enjoyed the read and have a wonderful weekend.

Hope to see you Sunday at the picnic!

Happy Writing,

Joy Burke
NWW Coordinator

Northwest Women Writers Updates

Fall is fast approaching and with it, a new schedule of events.

We have two exciting get-togethers to look forward to I'd like to let you know about.

If you plan to attend either event, I would greatly appreciate you registering (free to register).

*That way I now how best to plan and set up. Thank you!
Truly hope to see you there.*

NWWW All-Family Picnic:

Fee: Donation

Date: **This Sunday September 6th 12p-3p - Legion Memorial Park**

Hope to see you all there!

Register Here!



You and your family are invited to be a part of the Northwest Women Writer's kickoff picnic coming up this September 6th, from 12-3pm.

We will be meeting in the sheltered picnic area at Legion Memorial Park in Everett (145 Alverson Blvd, Everett, WA 98201). Bring whatever you would like to eat and if you would like to bring something to share please do, but you are not obligated to do so. Do bring any lawn chairs you'd like to use.

As a special treat, William Kenower has offered to join us so he has a chance to meet us on a more personal level and also to give us a sneak peek into his event coming up Saturday, September 12th!

There may be a chance to share some of your most recent work if you would like, so feel free to bring it along.

Hope to see you all there!

I rented the shelter for the fee of \$79. I have received a few donations already (Thank you!!) but it would be wonderful to share the cost so we can continue to do fun events such as this.

SPEAKER: William Kenower

Fee: \$5

Date: Saturday September 12th 10-12. Main Everett Library

Register Here!

Please note:

Eventbrite ticket says 'Free' but the event does have a \$5 admission. Thank you!



William Kenower confirmed that he is happy to come speak for us at the main Everett Library!

Our event will take place Saturday September 12th 10-12 in the auditorium. Please arrive on time so we can maximize the time he has for us and enjoy some time visiting.

Biography:

William Kenower is the author of [Write Within Yourself: An Author's Companion](#), the Editor-in-Chief of [Author](#) magazine, and a sought-after speaker and teacher, and a contributor to Huffington Post.

His video interviews with hundreds of writers from Nora Ephron, to Amy Tan, to William Gibson are widely considered the best of their kind on the Internet.

He also hosts the online radio program [Author2Author](#) where every week he and a different guest discuss the books we write and the lives we lead. To learn more about William, go to [williamkenower.com](#).

Mr. Kenower will be staying after the event on the 12th to sign books and will have copies available for purchase! This is going to be great!

Member News & Updates:

Sammy the Centipede Heads to Kauai!



Congratulations to Maria Luchsinger and Sammy the Centipede! Sammy is heading to Kauai! How exciting!!

Check out this fun video to learn more about Sammy's new home...or just head to Kauai....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcXcxKHI0mk>

Maya Sullivan on the Air!

If you didn't have a chance to listen to Maya live on the 21st about her book, you can access the archived show at the link below. She did a great job. Way to go, Maya!

Access archived shows at: <http://1150kknw.com/archives/sunny-in-seattle-archive/>

***What's new with you?
Would you like to share your successes with the group?***

Just email your news to joy@northwestwomenwriters.com

and I'll put it in the next edition.

Classes & Workshops

Northwest Institute of Literary Arts: (<http://nila.edu/classes>) - Full of opportunities to grow your skills and craft.

Nicholas O'Connell (<http://www.thewritersworkshop.net>) - Always an interesting line up of classes in Seattle and online:

- http://www.thewritersworkshop.net/classes_seattle.htm.
- <http://www.thewritersworkshop.net/onlineclasses.htm>.

Village Books (<http://www.villagebooks.com/>) - if you're interested in getting out and about for a little while for some good writing community, this may just be your spot! It may be a little bit of a drive for some, but they have some great programs for writers - and readers! Check them all out [here](#).

Hugo House (<http://hugohouse.org/>) - one of the most well-known literary houses in our area, Hugo House has a number of classes and workshops open to the public. If you have ever wanted to take a look for yourself to see what makes this place so great, now's your chance! Check out their catalog and class listing [here](#).

Hedgebrook (<http://www.hedgebrook.org/>) - Located on beautiful Whidbey island, Hedgebrook is a perfect place to get in touch with your writerly self. They are always working on ways to help writers hone their craft with intensive programs and courses meant to grow you as a writer. [Check out what's new](#) at Hedgebrook.



Story Circle Network - (<http://www.storycircleonlineclasses.org/index.php>) By, For, and About Women. Online classes and workshops.

Upcoming Events

Please see [above](#) for our special upcoming events in September!



Skagit Valley Writers League

Keep Skagit Valley Writers League in the back of your mind as you plan out your monthly schedule. Sharon works hard to provide great opportunities for her group and is generous enough to pass those opportunities along to us. Be sure to check them out (and register!) at:

www.skagitwriters.org

Edmonds Story Time

The next meeting of Edmonds Story Time is on Sunday, September 13, 2:30-4:30 at Mountlake Terrace Public Library.

Any questions, contact Kathy McMullen, Edmonds Story Time, a.k.a. Greater Seattle Writers, administrator katzmcmullen@hotmail.com

Visit EST's facebook page at <https://EdmondsStoryTime.facebook.com>

Get a peek at McMullen the writer by visiting <http://neighborsnorth.wordpress.com>



Northwest Institute of Literary Arts

NILA has some [great programming](#) coming up. Many of their upcoming classes have sold out, but there's still room in Writing and Deepening Your Memoir with Sheila Bender! Check out all the details [here](#).



WOTS

Write on the Sound registration opened Tuesday July 28th.

Registration is only available online. Sessions fill quickly - I don't know what the status currently is for availability, but if you haven't signed up - check it out! There may still be

room!

If you need a reminder of what's available, visit the website below to take a look or even print out your own brochure.

A print brochure is available. PDF copies of the schedule and presenter biographies are available on the [WOTS Conference and Presenter web pages](#). If you would like a brochure mailed to you, send your request and your mailing address to wots@edmondswa.gov.

Helpful Links/Articles

[Armchair Publishing](#)

[Epic Group Writers](#)

<http://nila.edu/classes>

[Skagit Valley Writers League](#)

[The Book Designer](#)

[Judith Briles](#)

Prompt



Resources

- If you're anything like me, you're always on the lookout for neat new things to take your writing or other work to the next level. Well, I found something for you! You may have discovered it on your own if you read the blogs above, but here is a link to a blog article that includes five *free* fonts to set your writing apart from everyone else's.
Enjoy!

[Read the blog and get your free fonts here!](#)

Now, what about you? What do you want to hear about?

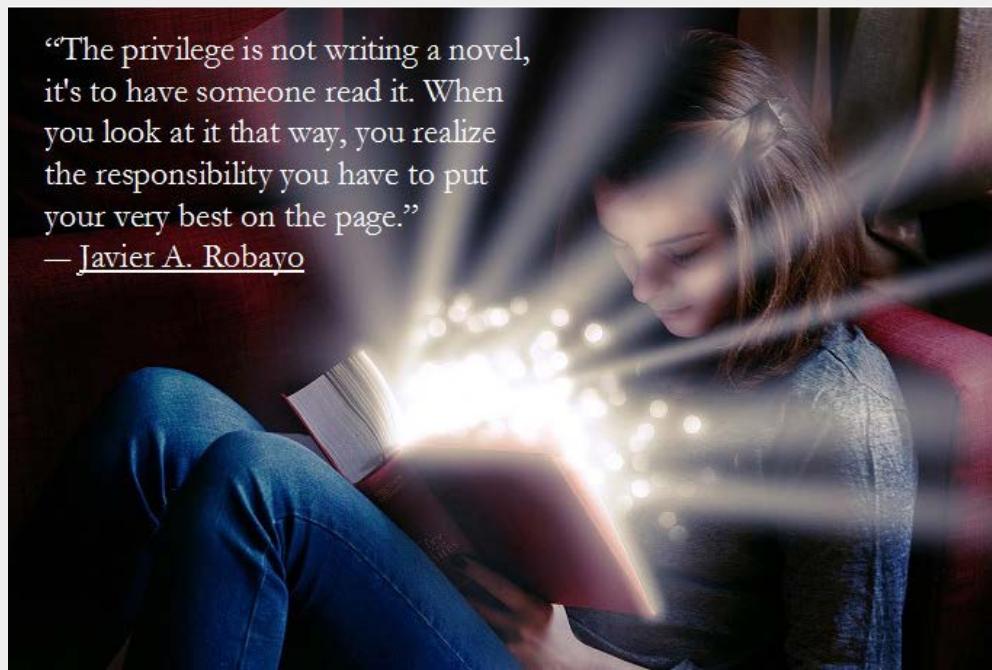
What do you want to learn?

What types of resources are you interested in discovering?

Let me know!

Quote for the Week

“The privilege is not writing a novel,
it's to have someone read it. When
you look at it that way, you realize
the responsibility you have to put
your very best on the page.”
— Javier A. Robayo



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