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# Comma after titled

Log In / Register Read Question Reply to All Reply Sun 30 May, 2021 03:05 pm As fleeting as a rainbow itself was the colourful piece of performance art by Very Small Exhibition (a one-man show by 43-year-old freelance designer and UAS adjunct professor Lee Wei Lieh), aptly titled “Very Momentary Exhibition,” which x”ran from 9:30 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. Sometimes I see a comma after “titled” in such constructions; at other times there isn’t. What is the reason for this? Thanks. Type: Question • Score: 1 • Views: 141 • Replies: 1 1 Reply Sun 30 May, 2021 06:55 pm @tanguatlay, The writer didn't want to use commas repetitively; they could have used em dashes to prevent the use of too many commas. As fleeting as a rainbow itself was the colourful piece of performance art by Very Small Exhibition (a one-man show by 43-year-old freelance designer and UAS adjunct professor Lee Wei Lieh)—aptly titled, “Very Momentary Exhibition”—which x”ran from 9:30 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. Forums » Comma after “titled” Read Question Reply to All Commas are small punctuation marks in the English language that are used in more ways than any other punctuation mark. The use of commas can be daunting since their use is so varied and wide. It seems hard to know when they should or should not be used. That is where this guide can help. Should commas be used with book titles? The answer is, sometimes. In fact, there is nothing about a book title that requires a comma with it just because it is a book title. However, depending on how the book title is used in a sentence, it may need a comma or two. When exactly does a book title need commas? If the book title is used as an appositive, it will need commas around it if it falls in the middle of the sentence, or one before it if it is at the end of the sentence. Take a look at appositives. Appositives An appositive is a noun (or pronoun) that follows another noun and explains it or renames it. For example: Dad is the first noun. George is the appositive, the noun that follows dad and renames it. If the book title is used as an appositive, it will need commas. Here are some examples of book titles used as appositives: Because the book title is further explaining or renaming the noun book, it is set off with commas. Here is a book title used as an appositive at the end of a sentence. In this example, the book title describes the noun book but ends the sentence, so only one comma is needed. Items in a series Another time a book title will need a comma is when it is part of a list or series. Commas are used to separate items in a list. Notice the example below. Commas separate the book titles in this sentence because they are part of a list. Certain writing styles, such as AP (Associated Press) style do not add a comma before the conjunction and last item in the list. British English rules state that the final comma (also called the Oxford comma and the serial comma) are only to be added for clarity if needed. Without the serial comma, the example sentence would look like this: Basically, book titles do not need commas just because they are book titles. If they are used in a way in the sentence that would generally have a comma they will need one because of the part of speech they are being used as. Hey fellow Linguaholics! It’s me, Marcel. I am the proud owner of linguaholic.com. Languages have always been my passion and I have studied Linguistics, Computational Linguistics and Sinology at the University of Zurich. It is my utmost pleasure to share with all of you guys what I know about languages and linguistics in general. 30-Nov-2011, 02:56 #1 The book, titled My Lifelong Challenge: Singapore’s Bilingual Journey, is also available in Chinese. 1. Is a comma needed after ‘book’? 2. I remember learning it is ‘entitled’. Is ‘titled’ also correct? 3. Should the title of the book ‘My Lifelong Challenge,’ be as indicated. In other words, should there be quote marks, or are quote marks optional? Thanks. Last edited by Tan Elaine; 30-Nov-2011 at 05:38. 30-Nov-2011, 09:38 #2 Originally Posted by Tan Elaine The book, titled My Lifelong Challenge: Singapore’s Bilingual Journey, is also available in Chinese. 1. Is a comma needed after ‘book’? Yes. You need bracketing commas before and after the part I have coloured blue. 2. I remember learning it is ‘entitled’. Is ‘titled’ also correct? Yes 3. Should the title of the book ‘My Lifelong Challenge,’ be as indicated. In other words, should there be quote marks, or are quote marks optional? You need either quotation marks or italics. 5 Case 1 Look at the sentences below – 1. My friend John, is a good painter. 2. My friend, John is a good painter. Which of these sentences has the commas placed correctly? The answer is – none of them! Sentence 1 is grammatically incorrect. In sentence 2 it is not clear whether the speaker is referring to John as his friend, or the person he is talking to as his friend. To understand this better, let us replace My friend with a name in sentence 2 – Tina, John is a good painter. This would mean the speaker is telling about John to Tina (the friend). Now consider the below sentences – 3. My friend, John, is a good painter. 4. My friend John is a good painter. Both these sentences are correct and convey the same thing. The rule is – either have the commas both before and after a name, or don’t add it at all. This is because the sentence is talking about a particular person John. The addition of commas gives extra emphasis to the name. Case 2 Look at the below sentence – ‘ My friend John, who is a better painter than me, can do the walls for your home. Here the comma is not essential because the clause beginning with who, does not identify John. Note that even without the clause ‘who is a better painter than me’, the sentence is grammatically correct and conveys the message. Case 3 While introducing someone, we use commas. ‘ This is Jane, my sister. ‘ The distinguished scientist, Mr. Stephen, of AKL University, will be addressing the crowd tomorrow. In the second sentence, the comma before and after the name indicates we are talking about a specific scientist of AKL University. The comma after the name also tells us that the information after the name is essential to identify the person. As we see, the main places where commas are necessary before/after names are ü Where the sentence is focussing on a particular person. ü While introducing a person ü Where the clause before/after the name is not essential. Few more examples – ‘ The mystery of the lost pencil has to be solved by Jim’s sister, Jane. ‘ My cousin Tom, who won a free trip to Maldives, is leaving tomorrow. ‘ I couldn’t complete the assignment alone, so I called my friend Sumy, who is faster and more knowledgeable. ‘ Thankfully, Sumy could come and help me. ‘ She was reading a book, A thousand splendid suns, which is quite a classic read. ‘ A thousand splendid suns, authored by Khaled Hosseini, is a fantastic novel. ‘ This is Monica, my colleague. Hope you liked the article. Write to us your doubts and queries through comments. The issue of restrictive/non-restrictive information does come into play here, and other answers give a good account of it. Here are a couple instances, though, of how each phrase could be grammatical. 1) The book The Odyssey by Homer is set against the backdrop of the Trojan War. You do not need commas here because the book title is essential information. Homer wrote two books that are set against the backdrop of the Trojan War, and you need to specify the Odyssey to your audience. 2) The book, The Odyssey, by Homer is set in the ten years following the Trojan War during Odysseus’s journey home. You need commas here because this information is non-essential or parenthetical information. We know which book you’re describing without you naming it. Thus, furnishing the title is something extra. The second example, to me, sounds redundant out of context, but it mimics speech patterns that you might hear in a discussion on The Odyssey. In this sense, the commas serve as pauses around the book, providing emphasis. But only incidentally. Their purpose is to separate information that is not inextricably linked. The Fund set up by the government was based on the recommendations made in a working paper titled/entitled, “Improving Teacher Professionalism” Which would be the better word here, titled or entitled?Thank you.Gilbert Replies sorted oldest to newest David, ModeratorModerator Hi, Gilbert --For a long time I had the same question! Then I found out that both words -- in the past participle usage, as in your example -- mean exactly the same thing, so either word is fine.Bryan Garner points out that when used as a transitive verb, “title” is to be preferred over “entitle,” because “entitle” can have an entirely different meaning: “to provide with a right or title to something.” Garner also notes that the Associated Press and some other newspapers reserve the word “entitled” for precisely that (other) meaning and would only use the word “titled” for the meaning found in your example (Garner’s Modern American Usage, 3rd Ed., p. 308). Incidentally, I think the comma in your example should come after “paper” rather than “titled/entitled.” And if the comma comes after “paper,” the word “titled/entitled” becomes unnecessary.The Fund set up by the government was based on the recommendations made in a working paper, “Improving Teacher Professionalism.”And if you use the definite article, you can drop the comma too! The Fund set up by the government was based on the recommendations made in the working paper “Improving Teacher Professionalism.” Cheers,David RM Rachel, ModeratorMember Dear David;Thanks for your great response.Rachel David, ModeratorModerator Thank you, Rachel. I'm getting to be a fan of Grammar Exchange. You've really got a great thing going here!David Hello David,That is a brilliant answer and you've helped my understanding a lot by giving me those examples.Are you a well-known author of grammar books or a language professor or something, posting to the GE under an assumed name? You're good David - thanks!Gilbert The Fund set up by the government was based on the recommendations made in the working paper “Improving Teacher Professionalism.” Hi David, Just wondering...If I wanted to add the name of the writer of that paper, should I use the option with the indefinite or definite article, as in:The Fund set up by the government was based on the recommendations made in a/the working paper(,) “Improving Teacher Professionalism” by Professor David N. Evans.Patiently I await...Gilbert David, ModeratorModerator Hi, Gilbert --Thank you for your kind words. I am neither a professor nor an author of books. My educational background is in philosophy, and I'm currently trying to break into the field of editing. I would also be interested in teaching grahmar. I came upon Grammar Exchange through Google, after I entered “comma before too.” I don't seem to be alone -- Confused Canadian's post is nearing 30,000 views!Regarding your other question . . . In the revision I suggested above, the title of the paper functions as an appositive within the sentence. Your choice of article before the noun phrase “working paper” will determine whether the title following that noun phrase is a non-restrictive appositive or a restrictive appositive. An indefinite article (a/an) would make the title non-restrictive appositive. The definite article (the) would make the title a restrictive appositive. If the title is non-restrictive, it should be preceded by a comma. If it's restrictive, it should not be preceded by a comma. To illustrate, the following sentence would be complete:The Fund set up by the government was based on recommendations made in a working paper. If you add the title of the paper to the above sentence, you will be adding a detail that is not essential to the meaning of the sentence; hence the need for a comma. But consider this next sentence, which uses the definite article instead:The Fund set up by the government was based on recommendations made in the working paper. Here a reader would wonder, “Which working paper?” Because of the definite article, the title of the paper is essential to the meaning of the sentence. Consequently, the title (when added) would not be preceded by a comma.Further considerations pertaining to restrictive/non-restrictive come into play if you give the author's name. Has the author written only one “working paper” (whatever you mean by that phrase)? If so, the title would be preceded by a comma. If the author has written more than one “working paper,” the title would not be preceded by a comma, because the title would then be restricting the meaning of the noun phrase “working paper.”Based on the above considerations, I see the following possibilities for your sentence. There would be even more possibilities if I were to use the prepositional phrase “by . . .,” as you have. But I prefer to use a possessive construction in this context. 1) The Fund set up by the government was based on recommendations made in Professor Applebee's working paper “Improving Teacher Professionalism.” [Here a reader can assume he's written more than one such paper.]2) The Fund set up by the government was based on recommendations made in Professor Applebee's working paper. “Improving Teacher Professionalism.” [Here a reader can assume he's written only one such paper.]My favorite version of the sentence would involve writing the sentence in active voice:3) The government set up the Fund based on what Professor Applebee recommended in his working paper “Improving Teacher Professionalism.”(Or, if he wrote only one such paper, add a comma after “paper.”)Hope that helps!David Thank you David N. Evans for taking so much time and effort to provide me with this very detailed and informed answer. You're an asset to the GE.Regards,GilbertKuala Lumpur, Malaysia. David, ModeratorModerator You're very welcome, Gilbert. Please feel free to address me by my first name. I've chosen to have my identity on this site be non-anonymous just in case I do publish something on grammar eventually and want to include something I've written here, such as my reductio ad absurdum in “Comma before ‘too’ at end of sentence.” Also, I think that if my name is associated with a post (that one in particular) random visitors will be less inclined to rip it off and use it for their own purposes.If this business about the relationship between restrictive vs. non-restrictive, definite vs. indefinite articles, comma vs. no comma seems complicated -- it is! I know many competent writers who aren't aware of these rules at all. An error in this area is very subtle and not worth fretting over, I think. Only a real nitpicker would say, “Hey, you put a comma there, but that guy wrote more than one of those papers!” Best,DavidSanta Cruz, California Hello David, Learning grammar is a ‘Goliath’ of a task for second language learners like me but I guess nothing comes easy in life... Well, I wish you the best in your future undertakings as a writer of grammar books, and hope you'll stick around and grow old with us here on the GE...!Cheers!Gilbert

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