

EXERCISE 32/33-6 Unnecessary commas Before working this exercise, read sections 32 and 33 in *Rules for Writers*, Fifth Edition.

One sentence in each of the following pairs is correctly punctuated. Circle the letter of the correct sentence and edit the incorrect sentence. Example:

(a) Jim Thorpe was a greater athlete than any other athlete of his time.

b. In 1950, an Associated Press poll of hundreds of sportswriters indicated that Thorpe was better/than any other athlete from 1900 to 1950.

1a. According to many experts, (sportswriters, coaches, and the like), Thorpe would always be considered the best athlete of his era.

b. Others predicted that modern knowledge of various aspects of training (nutrition, drugs, and the like) would produce even greater players by then.

2a. People said, that Thorpe's confidence in himself was so great that he often skipped practice at the Olympics, and they told the "broad jump story" to illustrate his confidence.

b. Observers said that he measured the broad jump distance with his eye, decided he could jump it, and lay down in a hammock for a nap, not even bothering to take a practice run at it.

3a. In his 289 games in baseball's major leagues, the only statistic that suggested trouble was his batting average of .252.

b. It seems that the only thing that really bothered Jim, was hitting curveballs.

4a. He had a peculiar style of running, that left his football tacklers flat on the ground.

b. He would twist his hips away from the player who was after him.

5a. He would wait until that player's head was at the exact, dangerous, height.

b. Then he would swing his hips with full, direct force right into the player's head.