

Grammar walks into a bar...

By Ross F. Collins

Parentheses, figuratively speaking, walk into a bar. But two commas set them off.

A semicolon walks into a bar; he orders a black-and-tan.

Ellipses walk into a bar....

A colon walks into a bar: he orders a rum Columbus.

A contraction squeezes into a bar, can't wait until happy hour's over.

A possessive apostrophe walks into a bar after a hard day's work.

Quotation marks walk into a bar, order "adult beverages."

A comma splice walks into a bar, he drinks and he leaves.

A dash sprints into a bar—and orders a quick one.

An exclamation point walks into a bar, buys a round for everyone!

A tired adjective walks into a very busy bar, and orders a very good beer.

A verb stumbles into a bar, beckons the bartender, slams his fist, and screams for whiskey.

A bar is walked into by a passive voice.

Alliteration ambles around an amiable alehouse, asks after an Alaskan amber.

Walking into a bar, a gerund joins an infinitive to drink.

A full stop walks into a bar. Period.

If he were a drinker, subjunctive mood would walk into a bar.

A split infinitive rushes into a bar with plans to quickly drink.

A dangling modifier walks into a bar. After refusing to pay for his drink, the bartender calls the cops.

A nominalization walks into a bar, makes a study of the beer menu.

AP style walked into a bar at 5 p.m., said Collins.