

Commas should be used:

1. To separate items or adjectives in a list.

For example:

His favourites puddings were apple pie, rhubarb crumble and ice cream.

Monika wore a red, blue, purple and white jumper.



Commas should be used:

2. Before these conjunctions: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so* to separate two independent clauses.

For example:

She was a fantastic cook, but she would never be as good as her mother.

He had a toothache, so he rang the dentist.



Commas should be used:

3. To separate a fronted adverbial from the rest of the sentence

For example:

Given the terrible weather conditions, the crew of the yacht were lucky to complete the race.

As the last ray of sun disappeared, Yasmine crept silently out of the house.

Commas should be used:

4. To separate direct speech from the rest of a sentence

For example:

"Martina," called Mum, "it's time to leave for school."

"Stop right there," the man commanded. "This is private property."

Commas should be used:

A comma is not always needed in direct speech if another punctuation mark is used to separate the speech from the rest of the sentence.

For example:

"Give me the money!" he snarled.
"Where have you been?" asked Dad.

NOT

"Give me the money!," he snarled.
"Where have you been?," asked Dad.



Commas should be used:

5. To separate main and subordinate clauses

For example:

While you're waiting, you can read a magazine.

Although I love football, swimming is my favourite sport.



Comma splices

Comma splices occur when two independent clauses are joined by a comma. **Comma splicing is inaccurate and should be avoided.**

For example:

Julian usually gets on with everybody, he is an understanding person.



This term, we have been looking at placing commas in the correct place. Use these reminders and this BBC Bitesize clip (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvwwxnb/articles/zc773k7>) to help you complete the task below.

Choose an appropriate level of challenge for you:

- I would like some practise
- I know what to do
- I'd like a challenge

You may complete more than one task.



Application Activity



I can use commas to clarify the meaning of a sentence.

Alter the following so they include one comma in the correct place:

1. When the lightning was bright people were scared.
2. "Careful children!" shouted the teacher.
3. As the campers sat round the fire eating the bear hid in the bushes.
4. "Let's leave Samira!" he shouted.

Add a comma to one of the sentences to give them different meanings:

1. Hurry up and shoot Dad.
Hurry up and shoot Dad.
2. The room was full of crying babies and mothers.
The room was full of crying babies and mothers.
3. Inside the dog was barking.
Inside the dog was barking.

Extension: Alter the sentences used to describe the pictures, with one comma to clarify meaning where needed:



"Quiet class!" exclaimed the teacher.



"Quiet class!" exclaimed the teacher.



Application Activity

I can use commas to clarify the meaning of a sentence.



Alter the following so they include commas in the correct places:

1. When the lightning was bright people were scared.
2. "Careful children!" shouted the teacher.
3. As the campers sat round the fire eating the bear hid in the bushes.
4. "Let's leave Samira!" he shouted.

Add commas to one of the sentences to give them different meanings:

5. Hurry up and shoot Dad.
Hurry up and shoot Dad.
6. The room was full of crying babies and mothers.
The room was full of crying babies and mothers.
7. The boy said the teacher was noisy.
The boy said the teacher was noisy.

Extension: Alter the sentences used to describe the pictures, with one comma to clarify meaning where needed:



"Quiet class!" exclaimed the teacher.



"Quiet class!" exclaimed the teacher.



Application Activity

I can use commas to clarify the meaning of a sentence.



Alter the following so they include commas in the correct places:

1. When the lightning was incredibly bright people were scared.
2. "Careful children!" shouted the teacher.
3. As the campers sat round the fire eating the bear hid in the bushes.
4. "Let's leave Samira!" he shouted through the darkness.

Use commas to give the two sentences different meanings:

1. As the sun shone bright red people moved into the shade.
As the sun shone bright red people moved into the shade.
2. The room was full of crying babies and mothers.
The room was full of crying babies and mothers.
3. The boy said the teacher was noisy.
The boy said the teacher was noisy.

Extension: Write an appropriate sentence to describe the pictures, with commas to clarify meaning where needed:




