

Varied Fluency

Step 6: Commas

National Curriculum Objectives:

Year 5 English (5G5.6a) [Using commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity in writing](#)

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support using commas correctly in sentences for a variety of purposes, including (one per sentence) to separate items in a list, for fronted adverbials and clarifying ambiguity in a sentence.

Expected Questions to support using commas correctly in sentences to separate items in a list, for fronted adverbials, parenthesis, speech and clarifying ambiguity in a sentence. Commas only used for one purpose per question.

Greater Depth Questions to support using commas correctly in sentences to separate items in a list, for fronted adverbials, parenthesis, speech and clarifying ambiguity in a sentence. Commas used for more than one purpose per question.

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Commas

Commas

1a. True or false? Commas have been used correctly in the following sentence.

I went to the shop and bought bread, milk, cheese and eggs.



VF

1b. True or false? Commas have been used correctly in the following sentence.

Later that night Sarah, finished the homework she had started.



VF

2a. What is the function of the comma in the following sentence?

My grandma enjoys cooking, her dogs and dancing.



VF

2b. What is the function of the comma in the following sentence?

You will need to bring your sleeping bag, toiletries and a rain jacket on the camping trip.



VF

3a. Circle the unnecessary comma(s) in the following sentence.

Yasmin needs to borrow extra pencils, paper, and a ruler, for her homework.



VF

3b. Circle the unnecessary comma(s) in the following sentence.

Surprisingly, Jared had not practised at all before performing, the violin piece, in front of his class.



VF

4a. Rewrite the sentence below adding comma(s) to change the meaning.

We ate chocolate cake and strawberries for our tea.



VF

4b. Rewrite the sentence below adding comma(s) to change the meaning.

The old lady collected gold jewellery and old coins.



VF

Commas

Commas

5a. True or false? Commas have been used correctly in the following sentence.

“After school, we can play football”, said Amy.



VF

5b. True or false? Commas have been used correctly in the following sentence.

Before going outside, we applied our sunscreen, and insect, repellent.



VF

6a. What is the function of the commas in the following sentence?

Ryan went back to the house, a derelict manor on the outskirts of town, to look for more clues.



VF

6b. What is the function of the comma in the following sentence?

Janice exclaimed, “I can’t believe you planned this whole party by yourself!”



VF

7a. Circle the unnecessary comma(s) in the following sentence.

The child, who, was frightened, and alone, cried out for her mother.



VF

7b. Circle the unnecessary comma(s) in the following sentence.

My bike, and skateboard, which are blue, are both in the shed.



VF

8a. Rewrite the sentence below adding comma(s) to change the meaning.

He liked Sue who played the guitar better than Sam.



VF

8b. Rewrite the sentence below adding comma(s) to change the meaning.

“Stop teasing Ali,” said Mum as the cousins were playing in the garden.



VF

Commas

Commas

9a. True or false? Commas have been used correctly in the following sentence.

Suddenly the car a red Ferrari, sped recklessly around the race track.



VF

9b. True or false? Commas have been used correctly in the following sentence.

Popular circus attractions include trapeze artists, contortionists, and, controversially, elephants.



VF

10a. What is the function of the commas in the following sentence?

Before attending the ceremony, Frederik, Owen and Gregor picked up the certificates and medals.



VF

10b. What is the function of the commas in the following sentence?

Jorge shouted, "That bike, the red and white one, needs to go in the rack on the roof!"



VF

11a. Circle the unnecessary comma(s) in the following sentence.

In the end, the winners were Kendra, who is a student, from Year 4, and her best friend Billy.



VF

11b. Circle the unnecessary comma(s) in the following sentence.

As I was getting ready, for school, Mum shouted, "Have you got your books, lunch, and homework?" from downstairs.



VF

12a. Rewrite the sentence below adding comma(s) to change the meaning.

Before feeding the lions, Simon fed the elephants giraffes tigers and monkeys.



VF

12b. Rewrite the sentence below adding comma(s) to change the meaning.

After a long day shopping, Josie bought a hamster and some sweets, which she ate on the way home.



VF

Varied Fluency Commas

Developing

- 1a. True
- 2a. Commas are used to avoid ambiguity. Without the comma it would sound as though Grandma enjoys cooking her dogs.
- 3a. Yasmin needs to borrow extra pencils, paper○and a ruler○for her homework.
- 4a. We ate chocolate, cake and strawberries for our tea.

Expected

- 5a. False. There should not be a comma after the inverted commas.
- 6a. Commas are used to punctuate parenthesis.
- 7a. The child, who○was frightened○and alone, cried out for her mother.
- 8a. He liked Sue, who played the guitar, better than Sam.

Greater Depth

- 9a. False. There should be a comma after 'suddenly' and before 'a red Ferrari'.
- 10a. Commas to punctuate a fronted adverbial and for separating items in a list.
- 11a. In the end, the winners were Kendra, who is a student○from Year 4, and her best friend Billy.
- 12a. Before feeding the lions, Simon fed the elephants, giraffes, tigers and monkeys.

Varied Fluency Commas

Developing

- 1b. False. The comma should come after the fronted adverbial 'Later that night'
- 2b. Commas are used to punctuate a list.
- 3b. Surprisingly, Jared had not practised at all before performing○the violin piece○in front of his class.
- 4b. The old lady collected gold, jewellery and old coins.

Expected

- 5b. False. There should not be a comma before 'and' or after 'insect'.
- 6b. Commas are used to punctuate speech.
- 7b. My bike○and skateboard, which are blue, are both in the shed.
- 8b. "Stop teasing, Ali," said Mum as the cousins were playing in the garden.

Greater Depth

- 9b. False. There should not be a comma before 'and'.
- 10b. Commas to punctuate speech and parenthesis.
- 11b. As I was getting ready○for school, Mum shouted, "Have you got your books, lunch○and homework?" from downstairs.
- 12b. After a long day shopping, Josie bought a hamster, and some sweets, which she ate on the way home.