



A dog howled, ~~braeking~~ the
comma → breaking

stillness. Someone was behind me...
period ← ellipsis

Commas



What do we use commas for?

A comma (,) indicates a short pause. There are a number of ways the comma is used in sentences.

Look at these sentences.

A comma is used after an **adverb** or **adverbial phrase** at the beginning of a sentence.

Suddenly, there was a loud clap of thunder.

Without warning, the skies opened and rain pelted down.



What do we use commas for?



A comma is used after an **adjectival phrase** at the beginning of a sentence.

Bright and hot, the sun beamed down on the ocean.

A comma is used after an **interjection** at the beginning of a sentence.

Aaargh, this homework is so unbelievably boring!



Pairs of commas

We use **pairs of commas** when we want to add information to the middle of a sentence.

A tomato, although a fruit, is usually eaten in salads.

The sun, bright and hot, beamed down on the ocean.

Tommy, who is my cousin, plays the drums in a rock band.

The thief, without blinking an eye, lifted the dazzling crystal from its golden case.



Pairs of commas allow us to add extra details to a sentence without disrupting its flow.

Can you identify where pairs of commas should go in each of these sentences?

- 1. Mexico assumed by many to be a South American country is actually in North America.**
- 2. The moon although it floats in space like the Earth is not a planet.**
- 3. My brother is very healthy and whenever he can he goes to the gym.**
- 4. Bulls despite the fact that they will attack a red cloak are color-blind.**

?

solve



Now write three sentences using pairs of commas to add information to each sentence.

Where do the commas go?



Press on the places in each sentence where you think there should be commas.

- 1. Einstein who was a genius developed the Theory of Relativity.**
- 2. Without a sound the students filed into the classroom.**
- 3. Yeah like I'm going to go to the party with *him*!**
- 4. I've told you oh about a thousand times!**
- 5. Quickly the thief shoved the bills into his sack.**
- 6. My sister even though I have told her not to always uses my hairbrush.**



solve



Using commas in lists of items

Commas are also used to separate items in a list.

I want my pizza with cheese,
mushrooms, ham, green
pepper and red pepper.

Notice that a comma
is not used before
the 'and' at the end
of the list!



The comma replaces the **conjunction** 'and' in a list of items.

How would the sentence sound if commas were not used to replace 'and' in a list?

You can also use commas in lists of **simple sentences**.

Freya likes indie music, Gemma likes heavy metal, Ashleigh likes pop music and Andy likes classical music.



Remember, a list must have three or more items or sentences. You should not use a comma to join just two words or sentences together.

Write a list of sentences, using commas to separate each one.



Using commas in lists of adjectives

Commas are used to separate a list of two or more **adjectives** being used to describe the noun in a sentence.

The **fat, sleepy, lazy** cat sat on the sofa licking her **white, fluffy** paws.

The **bright, hot** sun blazed across the desert.

Notice that a comma is ***not*** used after the final adjective in the list.

Using commas helps us to avoid repeating 'and' after each adjective.



Write a sentence describing something, using commas to separate your adjectives.

Test your knowledge



Can you identify how many commas each sentence should have?

1. Peter's mother insisted that before he could go out he had to finish his homework. _____

2. I can't wait to sink my teeth into the hot gooey chocolate brownies. _____

3. I missed the bus because my alarm clock didn't

1 comma

0 commas

2 commas

1 comma

2 commas

3 comma

0 commas

2 commas



solve



Now rewrite the sentences with the commas in place.