



Commas

What we know about commas

A We know ...

- that commas are used to separate the names of people, places, and things in a list.
- that we don't put a comma before the word **and** when writing a list.

● **Complete these sentences by making lists and using commas.**

- 1 John, _____ and _____ came with us.
- 2 We visited Galway, _____ and _____
- 3 We bought cake, _____ and _____

B We know that commas are used to make a sentence easier to read and understand.

Write a short piece of text from your story anthology or information book leaving out the commas. Ask a friend to put in the missing commas using the symbol $\textcircled{,}$. Check if he/she has missed any!

More about commas

i When a number of adjectives come **before** a noun, they are separated from each other by commas. There is **no** comma after the last adjective.

It was a cold, wet, damp day.

He wore a long, heavy, grey coat.



● **Complete these sentences by using lists of adjectives.**

- 1 He got a _____ dog.
- 2 She bought a _____ bicycle.
- 3 It was a _____ day.
- 4 She lives in a _____ house.
- 5 The lake was _____ and _____.
- 6 The book is _____ and _____.
- 7 Storms can be _____ and _____.
- 8 The trees were _____ and _____.



i When a sentence has a phrase in the middle, that is not part of the main statement, commas are used **before** and **after** the phrase.



- 1 The weather, to our surprise, was warm and sunny.
- 2 Our dogs, Rover and Lassie, guard the house at night.

A Write the above sentences 1 and 2 without the words between the commas. See if they make sense.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

B Punctuate the following sentences by putting in the commas.

- 1 The computer which was new was out of order.
- 2 Tom who was really very tired packed all the rucksacks.
- 3 The circus which was held twice daily was very well attended.
- 4 My neighbour a man in his eighties walks ten miles every day.
- 5 The trophy which was won by our team is on display in the school hall.

C Write the above sentences 1-5 without the words between the commas. See if they make sense.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

i The comma is used to separate someone's name from the rest of the sentence when you are addressing him/her.

John, bring some money with you if you are going to town. **or**
Bring some money with you, **John**, if you are going to town.



● Punctuate sentences 1 and 2 by using commas.

Write more sentences. Address somebody, and use the comma correctly.

- 1 Laura did you return your book to the library on the due date.
- 2 Put on your jacket Peter if you are going to the match.
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____