Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

COMMA EXPLORERS: CLEAR LISTS



Use commas to separate items in a series.

About 35 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

TASK A

Example done for you

/3

Place each sentence on the line by its commas.

A

confusing — clear

A ~~I packed socks, shirts, and shoes.~~

B I packed socks shirts and shoes.

C I packed socks, shirts and shoes.

D I packed socks shirts, and shoes.

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WHY COMMAS MATTER

Rank the reasons commas in lists help readers.

KEY WORDS

series: three or more items in one sentence

item: one thing in a list

pause: short stop when reading

comma: mark that separates items

list: items written in a series

TASK B

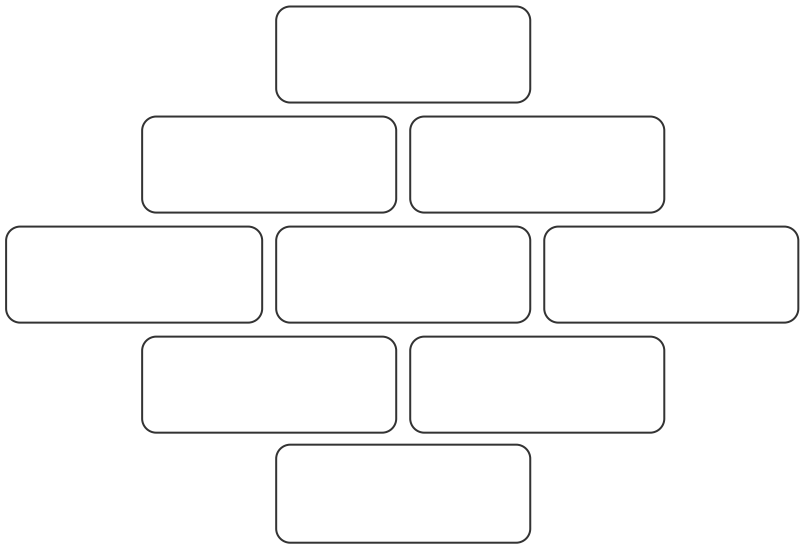
Rank seven reasons commas help in a list.

why commas in a series help the reader

✂ Cut out the cards.

Shows where each item starts and stops	Stops two items blending into one	Makes long sentences easy to read
Includes a comma before and or or	Works for words and longer phrases	Helps the reader pause correctly
Keeps your meaning clear and exact	Your own idea	Your own idea

▲ **Most important**



▼ **Least important**

Why did you put your top card at the top?

.....

.....

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COMMA BINGO

Play bingo with words about commas in lists.

TASK C

Play bingo with a partner until you get three in a row with list words.

BINGO 1

and	series	item
clear	comma	list
or	pause	sentence

BINGO 2

and	pause	series
or	sentence	clear
item	list	comma

BINGO 3

series	pause	clear
sentence	item	or
comma	and	list

BINGO 4

series	sentence	and
comma	clear	or
item	list	pause

Caller: comma · series · list · item · and · or · pause · clear · sentence

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DRAW AND DECIDE

Draw a list and work out what commas do.

TASK D

Draw a lunch tray with three foods and write the list.

Draw your favorite lunch with three foods. Write one sentence with commas. Start with: I packed...

Draw here

Write here

TASK E

/2

Read the supply note and explain the commas.

Our field kit needs a flashlight, warm socks, and a map. Without commas, the reader could not see three separate items.

Question	It says...	I say...	And so...
How many items are in the **series**?	a flashlight, warm socks, and a map	three separate things	it is a series and needs commas
Where do the **commas** go?			

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know **commas** can change meaning? The panda eats shoots and leaves means it eats plants, but the panda eats, shoots, and leaves means it eats, fires, and goes.

CHALLENGE TIME!

Can you say three classroom objects as a clear **series** aloud? Tell a partner.

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FIX AND CHOOSE

Proofread lists and pick the clearest sentences.

TASK F

/3

Proofread the paragraph and fix the missing **commas**.

We packed notebooks pencils and pens for class. The kit has a ruler a map and crayons. For art we need red blue and green paint.

There are 3 mistakes.

Mistake	Correction

TASK G

/6

Recommend the clearest list sentence for each **writer**.

I packed a pen, a notebook, and a ruler.

She ran, jumped, and laughed.

We looked under the desk, behind the door, and in the box.

Person	Most suitable choice	Justification
a student listing school supplies		
a student describing actions at recess		
a student telling where the class looked		

HOW DID I DO?

Circle a face for each line.

I can find a series of three or more items.

I can place commas between items in a series.

I can use a comma before and or or in a list.

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Answer sheet: Comma Explorers: Clear Lists

Task A

From confusing to clear: B, D, C, A

Task B

Answers will vary.

Task C

A game: no written answers.

Task D

Answers will vary.

Task E

1. it is a series and needs commas
2. the commas make the list clear to the reader

Task F

1. notebooks pencils and pens → notebooks, pencils, and pens
2. a ruler a map and crayons → a ruler, a map, and crayons
3. red blue and green paint → red, blue, and green paint

Task G

a student listing school supplies: I packed a pen, a notebook, and a ruler. (It uses commas between three supply words.)

a student describing actions at recess: She ran, jumped, and laughed. (It uses commas between three action words.)

a student telling where the class looked: We looked under the desk, behind the door, and in the box. (It uses commas between three longer phrases.)

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