

Recognising Commas to Avoid Ambiguity

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1a. Explain how the comma changes the meaning of the sentences below.

You need to tidy up, Rachel.

You need to tidy up Rachel.



R

1b. Explain how the commas change the meaning of the sentences below.

Shall we eat grandad?

Shall we eat, grandad?



R

2a. Label the boxes A, B or C where A means a comma should be used, B means a comma could be used and C means a comma should never be used.

Julian loves cooking his family and



watching television.



Convince me.



R

2b. Label the boxes A, B or C where A means a comma should be used, B means a comma could be used and C means a comma should never be used.

Max loves his friends reading



comics dogs and computer games.



Convince me.



R

3a. Look at the sentence below.

Julie saw a giraffe, holding a pink balloon.

Which statement is true?

- A) Julie was holding a pink balloon.
- B) The giraffe was holding a pink balloon.

Rewrite the sentence so the other statement is true.



A

3b. Look at the sentence below.

There was a man carrying a little girl wearing pyjamas.

Which statement is true?

- A) The man was wearing pyjamas.
- B) The girl was wearing pyjamas.

Rewrite the sentence so the other statement is true.



A

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4a. Explain how the comma changes the meaning of the sentences below.

On a whim, I invited my parents, David and Anne, for lunch at the weekend.

On a whim, I invited my parents, David and Anne for lunch at the weekend.



R

4b. Explain how the commas change the meaning of the sentences below.

On Tuesday, Mike bought a pie, that he ate on his way home, so he didn't want any lunch.

On Tuesday, Mike bought a pie that he ate on his way home so he didn't want any lunch.



R

5a. Label the boxes A, B or C where A means a comma should be used, B means a comma could be used and C means a comma should never be used.

If you leave your shoes on the floor I
☐ will trip over mum.
☐

Convince me.



R

5b. Label the boxes A, B or C where A means a comma should be used, B means a comma could be used and C means a comma should never be used.

The little girl Katie saw a monkey
☐ ☐ ☐
 eating an ice-cream.

Convince me.



R

6a. Look at the sentence below.

Despite being told time and time again, Helen, said her mother, is in a lot of trouble.

Which statement is true?

- A) Helen is in a lot of trouble.
- B) Helen's mother is in a lot of trouble.

Rewrite the sentence so the other statement is true.



A

6b. Look at the sentence below.

In her spare time, Yasmin enjoys watching television, writing stories, and fairy-tales.

Which statement is true?

- A) Yasmin enjoys writing stories and fairy-tales.
- B) Yasmin enjoys writing stories.

Rewrite the sentence so the other statement is true.



A

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7a. Explain how the comma changes the meaning of the sentences below.

Despite everything, my friends, Joe and Carrie (who lived in London) were always welcome.

Despite everything, my friends, Joe and Carrie, (who lived in London) were always welcome.



R

7b. Explain how the commas change the meaning of the sentences below.

When he finally got home (it was already dark outside), he started making batches of chilli and rice.

When he finally got home (it was already dark outside), he started making batches of chilli, and rice.



R

8a. Label the boxes A, B or C where A means a comma should be used, B means a comma could be used and C means a comma should never be used.

"Please can I have ice water juice and a cup of tea?" shouted Molly (a little louder).

Diagram: Arrows point to boxes above 'ice' and 'water', and a box below 'shouted'.

Convince me.



R

8b. Label the boxes A, B or C where A means a comma should be used, B means a comma could be used and C means a comma should never be used.

As she watched the game (and the clock) she realised that she loved people who play football better than Dave.

Diagram: Arrows point to boxes above 'game' and 'clock', and a box below 'realised'.

Convince me.



R

9a. Look at the sentence below.

After the meeting, the CEO (in her pin-striped suit) finished her hotdog smothered in ketchup.

Which statement is true?

- A) The CEO was smothered in ketchup.
- B) The hot dog was smothered in ketchup.

Rewrite the sentence so the other statement is true.



A

9b. Look at the sentence below.

When I was walking home from school, I noticed a small girl walking a dog with floppy ears.

Which statement is true?

- A) The girl had floppy ears.
- B) The dog had floppy ears.

Rewrite the sentence so the other statement is true.



A