

Application and Reasoning

Step 1: Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

National Curriculum Objectives:

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

Terminology for pupils:

- (5G5.6a) [ambiguity](#)

Differentiation:

Questions 1, 4 and 7 (Application)

Developing Create a sentence using specified commas. Using commas to demarcate adverbial phrases and for parenthesis.

Expected Create a sentence using specified commas. Using commas to demarcate adverbial phrases, separate clauses, within lists and for parenthesis.

Greater Depth Create a sentence using specified commas. Using commas within multi-clause sentences for a variety of purposes where sentences use a wide range of adverbs and other forms of parenthesis as covered in Autumn Block 4 and Spring Block 1.

Questions 2, 5 and 8 (Reasoning)

Developing Explain which sentence uses commas correctly. Using commas to demarcate adverbial phrases and for parenthesis.

Expected Explain which sentence uses commas correctly. Using commas to demarcate adverbial phrases, separate clauses, within lists and for parenthesis.

Greater Depth Explain which sentence uses commas correctly. Using commas within multi-clause sentences for a variety of purposes where sentences use a wide range of adverbs and other forms of parenthesis as covered in Autumn Block 4 and Spring Block 1.

Questions 3, 6 and 9 (Reasoning)

Developing Explain if commas have been used correctly for a specified purpose. Using commas to demarcate adverbial phrases and for parenthesis.

Expected Explain if commas have been used correctly for a specified purpose. Using commas to demarcate adverbial phrases, separate clauses, within lists and for parenthesis.

Greater Depth Explain if commas have been used correctly for a specified purpose. Using commas within multi-clause sentences for a variety of purposes where sentences use a wide range of adverbs and other forms of parenthesis as covered in Autumn Block 4 and Spring Block 1.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

1a. Write a sentence that uses a pair of commas for parenthesis.

Use the word bank to help you.

towel goggles Jake
bag swimming armbands



A

1b. Write a sentence that uses a comma for an adverbial.

Use the word bank to help you.

last team award
summer football won



A

2a. Which sentence below uses commas correctly?

A. The football match, which kicked off at 3pm, was very exciting.

B. The football match which, kicked off at 3pm was very, exciting.

Explain your answer.



R

2b. Which sentence below uses commas correctly?

A. During the hot weather the children, played outside.

B. During the hot weather, the children played outside.

Explain your answer.



R

3a. Hafsa thinks she has used commas correctly for parenthesis.

Mr Jones the physics teacher, was late to registration.

Is she correct? Explain your answer.



R

3b. Sinead thinks she has used a comma correctly for an adverbial.

Under the tree there, were many toadstools.

Is she correct? Explain your answer.



R

Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

4a. Write a sentence that uses a pair of commas to show an adverbial.

Use the word bank to help you.

behind	cabin	trees
hidden	stood	shabby



A

4b. Write a sentence that uses a pair of commas for parenthesis.

Use the word bank to help you.

girl	sport	run
who	sprint	race



A

5a. Which sentence below uses commas correctly?

A. Before their friends, arrived they had time to visit the café for breakfast.

B. Before their friends arrived, they had time to visit the café for breakfast.

Explain your answer.



R

5b. Which sentence below uses commas correctly?

A. The old house which had been empty for a long time, finally had new owners.

B. The old house, which had been empty for a long time, finally had new owners.

Explain your answer.



R

6a. Millie thinks she has used commas correctly for parenthesis and to separate clauses.

The delivery which appeared to be running late, was the cause of lots of stress. Despite having much more to do, before she could go home Mum sat down, with a cup of tea.

Is she correct? Explain your answer.



R

6b. Lucy thinks she has used commas correctly for parenthesis and to separate clauses.

The theatre production of Annie which had proved very popular, had been asked to perform on two extra nights. Even though, the cast were tired they were excited too.

Is she correct? Explain your answer.



R

Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

7a. Write a multi-clause sentence that uses commas for parenthesis.

Use the word bank to help you.

after homework
finished dinner



A

7b. Write a multi-clause sentence that uses a pair of commas for parenthesis.

Use the word bank to help you.

who rugby
which watch



A

8a. Which sentence below uses commas correctly?

A. The performance, of Swan Lake interrupted by a person taken ill resumed, again eventually after a short, break.

B. The performance of Swan Lake, interrupted by a person taken ill, resumed again, eventually, after a short break.

Explain your answer.



R

8b. Which sentence below uses commas correctly?

A. Creeping silently, trying to get away without being noticed, the group edged, steadily, towards the exit.

B. Creeping, silently trying to get away, without being noticed the group edged steadily, towards the exit.

Explain your answer.



R

9a. Pippa thinks she has used commas correctly.

Across the desert the camel, trudged along without stopping despite the relentless heat, and lack of the water.

Is she correct? Explain your answer.



R

9b. Flo thinks she has used commas correctly.

Under the table behind, the chair leg she found the pencil that she had been looking for, after losing it the week before.

Is she correct? Explain your answer.



R

Application and Reasoning Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

Developing

1a. Example answer: Jake, who was going swimming, packed a towel into his bag.

2a. A is correct because the commas are used for parenthesis, giving extra information.

3a. She is incorrect because the commas are not used to separate the extra information. The sentence should be: Mr Jones, the physics teacher, was late to registration.

Expected

4a. Example answer: Hidden behind the trees, there stood a shabby cabin.

5a. B is correct because the commas are used for an adverbial, showing when they visited the café.

6a. She is incorrect because there is not a pair of commas around the extra information or to separate clauses. The sentences should be: The delivery, which appeared to be running late, was the cause of lots of stress. Despite having much more to do before she could go home, Mum sat down with a cup of tea.

Greater Depth

7a. Example answer: Even though he really didn't want to, Ivan, who was tired, finished his homework after his dinner.

8a. B is correct because the commas are used to separate the pieces of extra information.

9a. She is incorrect because she has not used a comma after the adverbial or to separate the clauses. The sentence should be: Across the desert, the camel trudged along without stopping, despite the relentless heat and lack of water.

Application and Reasoning Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

Developing

1b. Example answer: Last summer, my football team won the award for the most improved team.

2b. B is correct because the comma is used after an adverbial, showing when the children played.

3b. She is incorrect because the comma is not after the adverbial. The sentence should be: Under the tree, there were many toadstools.

Expected

4b. Example answer: The little girl, who was great at sport, won the sprint race at her sports day.

5b. B is correct because the commas are used for parenthesis, giving extra information.

6b. She is incorrect because there is not a pair of commas around the extra information or to separate clauses. The sentences should be: The theatre production of Annie, which had proved very popular, had been asked to perform on two extra nights. Even though the cast were tired, they were excited too.

Greater Depth

7b. Example answer: The rugby match, which was much anticipated, proved to be an entertaining watch for the spectators, despite the pouring rain.

8b. A is correct because the commas are used after an adverbial, to separate clauses, and for parenthesis.

9b. She is incorrect because she has not used commas after each adverbial. The sentence should be: Under the table, behind the chair leg, she found the pencil that she had been looking for after losing it the week before.