Application and Reasoning Step 2: Recognising Commas to Avoid Ambiguity

National Curriculum Objectives:

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

Differentiation:

Questions 1, 4 and 7 (Reasoning)

Developing Explain how adding a comma to avoid ambiguity changes the meaning of a simple, single clause sentence.

Expected Explain how adding a comma to avoid ambiguity changes the meaning of a single clause sentence with adverbials.

Greater Depth Explain how adding a comma to avoid ambiguity changes the meaning of a multi-clause sentence that also contains other forms of punctuation for parenthesis.

Questions 2, 5 and 8 (Reasoning)

Developing Identify and explain whether a comma is needed to avoid ambiguity in a simple sentence. 2 boxes given.

Expected Identify and explain whether commas are needed for ambiguity, or otherwise, in a multi-clause sentence. 3 boxes given.

Greater Depth Identify and explain whether commas are needed for ambiguity, or otherwise, in a multi-clause sentence. 3 boxes given.

Questions 3, 6 and 9 (Application)

Developing Select the true statement about a sentence which uses commas to avoid ambiguity. Rewrite the sentence with an alternative meaning. Simple sentence used. Expected Select the true statement about a sentence which uses commas to avoid ambiguity. Rewrite the sentence with an alternative meaning. Sentence including various adverbials.

Greater Depth Select the true statement about a sentence which uses commas to avoid ambiguity. Rewrite the sentence with an alternative meaning. Multi-clause sentence that also contains other forms of punctuation for parenthesis.

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Recognising Commas to Avoid Recognising Commas to Avoid Ambiguity Ambiguity 1a. Explain how the comma changes the 1b. Explain how the commas change the meaning of the sentences below. meaning of the sentences below. You need to tidy up, Rachel. Shall we eat grandad? You need to tidy up Rachel. Shall we eat, grandad? 2a. Label the boxes A, B or C where 2b. Label the boxes A, B or C where A means a comma should be used, A means a comma should be used, B means a comma could be used and B means a comma could be used and C means a comma should never be used. C means a comma should never be used. Julian loves cooking his family and Max loves his friends reading comics dogs and computer games. watching television. Convince me. Convince me. 3a. Look at the sentence below. 3b. Look at the sentence below. Julie saw a giraffe, holding a pink There was a man carrying a little balloon. girl wearing pyjamas. Which statement is true? Which statement is true? A) Julie was holding a pink balloon. A) The man was wearing pyjamas. B) The giraffe was holding a pink balloon. B) The girl was wearing pyjamas. Rewrite the sentence so the other Rewrite the sentence so the other statement is true. statement is true.



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Recognising Commas to Avoid Recognising Commas to Avoid Ambiauity Ambiauity 4a. Explain how the comma changes the 4b. Explain how the commas change the meaning of the sentences below. meaning of the sentences below. On a whim, I invited my parents, On Tuesday, Mike bought a pie, David and Anne, for lunch at the that he ate on his way home, so he weekend. didn't want any lunch. On a whim, I invited my parents, On Tuesday, Mike bought a pie that David and Anne for lunch at the he ate on his way home so he weekend. didn't want any lunch. 5a. Label the boxes A, B or C where 5b. Label the boxes A, B or C where A means a comma should be used, A means a comma should be used, B means a comma could be used and B means a comma could be used and C means a comma should never be used. C means a comma should never be used. If you leave your shoes on the floor, I The little girl Katie saw a monkey eating an ice-cream. will trip over mum. Convince me. Convince me. 6a. Look at the sentence below. 6b. Look at the sentence below. Despite being told time and time In her spare time, Yasmin enjoys again, Helen, said her mother, is in watching television, writing stories, a lot of trouble. and fairy-tales. Which statement is true? Which statement is true? A) Yasmin enjoys writing stories and fairy-A) Helen is in a lot of trouble. tales. B) Helen's mother is in a lot of trouble. B) Yasmin enjoys writing stories.



statement is true.

Rewrite the sentence so the other

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Rewrite the sentence so the other

statement is true.

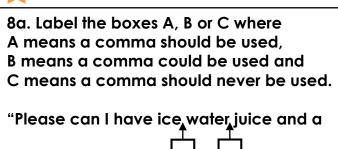
Recognising Commas to Avoid Ambiguity 7a. Explain how the comma changes the meaning of the sentences below. Despite everything, my friends, Joe and Carrie (who lived in London) were always of chilli and rice. welcome. Despite everything, my friends, Joe and Carrie, (who lived in London) were always welcome. of chilli, and rice.

Recognising Commas to Avoid Ambiauity

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

When he finally got home (it was already dark outside), he started making batches



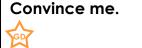
8b. Label the boxes A, B or C where A means a comma should be used, B means a comma could be used and C means a comma should never be used.

cup of tea?" shouted Molly (a little louder).

As she watched the game (and the

clock), she realised that she loved people who play football better than Dave.

Convince me.



9a. Look at the sentence below.

After the meeting, the CEO (in her pinstriped suit) finished her hotdog smothered in ketchup.

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?

Which statement is true?

- A) The CEO was smothered in ketchup.
- A) The girl had floppy ears.
- B) The hot dog was smothered in ketchup.

B) The dog had floppy ears.

Rewrite the sentence so the other statement is true.

Rewrite the sentence so the other statement is true.





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Application and Reasoning Recognising Commas to Avoid Ambiguity

Developing

1a. In the first sentence, Rachel needs to tidy up; she is being spoken to. In the second sentence, the subject of the sentence needs to tidy up Rachel; Rachel needs to be tidied up.

2a. The first box is B. If Julian likes cooking his family, there does not need to be a comma. However, if he likes cooking and his family separately, there needs to be a comma to separate them in the list. The second box is C because this is the middle of a clause.

3a. A. Julie saw a giraffe holding a pink balloon.

Expected

4a. In the first sentence, my parents are called David and Anne. In the second sentence, David and Anne are additional guests to my parents.

5a. The first box is C because this is the middle of a clause. The second box is A because a comma should be used here to separate the subordinate and main clauses. The third box is B. A comma could be used here to show that the sentence is directed towards mum. If 'mum' is the thing that will be tripped over, a comma is not needed.

6a. A. Despite being told time and time again, Helen said her mother is in a lot of trouble.

Greater Depth

7a. In the first sentence, my friends plus Joe and Carrie were welcome. In the second sentence, Joe and Carrie are the friends that were welcome.

8a. The first box is B. If Molly is requesting ice and water separately, a comma is needed to separate the items in the list. If Molly wants ice water, a comma is not needed. The second box is A because 'water' and 'juice' are two items a list so need to be separated with a comma. The third box is C because this is the middle of a clause.

9a. B. After the meeting, the CEO (in her pinstriped suit) finished her hotdog, smothered in ketchup.

Application and Reasoning Recognising Commas to Avoid Ambiguity

Developing

1b. In the first sentence, grandad is the meal. In the second sentence, grandad is being asked a question.

2b. The first box is B. If 'his friends' and 'reading comics' are separate items in the list, a comma is needed. If 'his friends reading comics' is a phrase, a comma is not needed. The second box is A because 'comics' and 'dogs' are two items a list so need to be separated with a comma.

3b. B. There was a man carrying a little girl, wearing pyjamas.

Expected

4b. In the first sentence, Mike didn't want any lunch because he can eaten the pie. In the second sentence, the reason that Mike bought the pie was so that he didn't want any lunch.

5b. The first box and second boxes are A 'Katie' is an embedded clause. The third box is B. If the girl is eating an ice-cream, a comma is needed. If the monkey is eating an ice-cream, the comma is not needed.
6a. B. In her spare time, Yasmin enjoys watching television, writing stories and fairy-tales.

Greater Depth

7b. In the first sentence, the batches included both chilli and rice. In the second sentence, he made batches of chilli but the rice was separate.

8b. The first box is C because this is the middle of a clause. The second box is A because a comma should be used here to separate the subordinate and main clauses. The third box is B. If she is comparing 'people who play football' and 'Dave', a comma is needed. If she is comparing their football ability, a comma is not needed.

9b. B. When I was walking home from school, I noticed a small girl walking a dog, with floppy ears.

