

Commas 1: Knowing when to use them

See the handout on **Commas** if you need help to complete these exercises.

Classifying commas

Read the sentences and circle the commas in each one. Then look at the list of the main uses of commas in the table below and write the appropriate sentence numbers by each one.

1. Lemonade, which is my favourite drink, is very tasty.
2. They had a long walk in the woods, then they took the bus home.
3. The mother fed her cross, hungry baby.
4. It was sad at first, but it all turned out well in the end.
5. You will need ribbon, sticky tape, a piece of wire and a pair of scissors.
6. Peter, my cousin, met us outside the museum.

Commas used for	Sentence number
Separating items in a list	3
Marking off extra information	
Joining two sentences	

Too many commas

Read the following passage, which has too many commas. Circle the commas that should be taken out and rewrite the passage correctly.

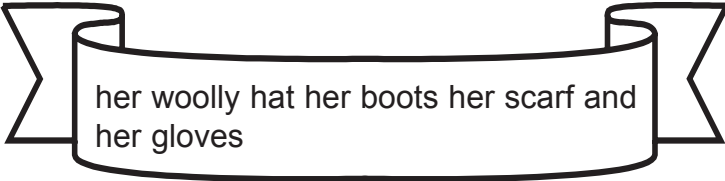
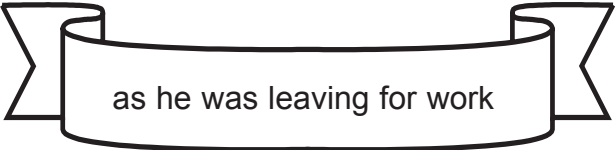
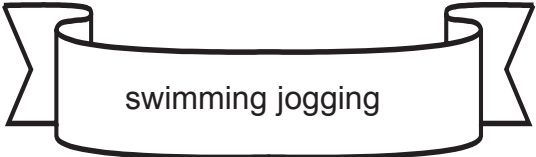
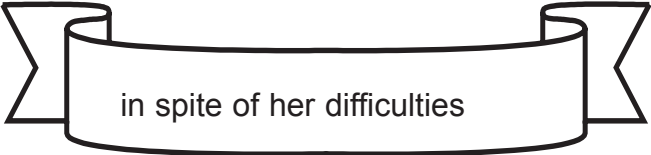
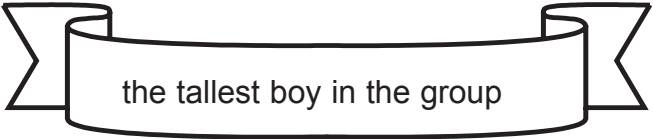
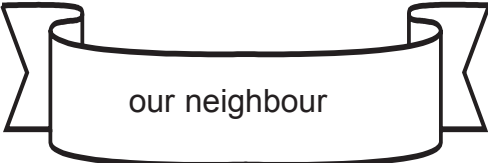
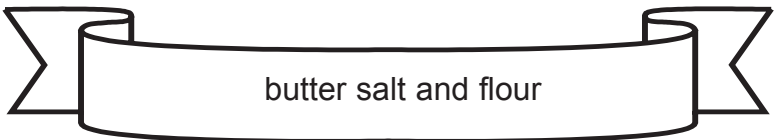
If you want a dog, you should first think about what breed, or kind of dog, would be best. Can you cope with the huge amount of exercise, that some hunting dogs need, or should you have a small, dog, that is happy running around in the garden? Do you want a puppy, or a full grown dog, a male, or a female? Once you have decided, find out all you can about the breed, from books, pet shops, other owners, and specialist breeders, before buying a dog.

Commas 2: Using commas

See the handout on **Commas** if you need help to complete this exercise.

Adding information

The banners contain pieces of extra information that can be added to the sentences underneath the banners. Choose which goes with which sentence and write it in the space in the sentence, punctuating the sentence correctly with commas.

We felt that _____ she was glad to be there.

_____ we need to leave now.

Mel's favourite sports are _____ squash and tennis.

Nigel _____ always played goalkeeper.

The recipe needs eggs _____.

Mrs Grey _____ came round to see my parents.

Amy put on her coat _____.

_____ dad gave me a big wink.

Commas 3: Using commas and other punctuation

See the handout on **Commas** if you need help to complete these exercises.

Adding commas

Read the sentences. Add commas to punctuate them correctly.

1. The tiny window which was high up in the castle wall was only just visible.
2. Cautiously Tony tiptoed towards the frightened animal.
3. 'Try and keep up with us please' begged Mrs Webb the Geography teacher.
4. James wanted to buy a new CD but he didn't have enough money.
5. Although she wasn't old enough Jackie was keen to join the Scouts.
6. He said 'Come on everyone or we'll be late.'
7. 'I've brought my sleeping bag a pillow a bag of popcorn and the video you wanted ' said Vanessa.

Punctuation puzzle

Read the following passage in which the punctuation marks have been removed and replaced by symbols. Fill in the boxes underneath to show which punctuation mark each symbol represents.

By lunchtime Alicia was back in school and looking fine though she had a large bandage around her wrist The rest of the day passed quickly and before long she heard the final bell At last She could now go home feed Jessie and fall into bed

Perhaps if she had done so straight away the dreadful scene outside the school gates would never have happened So why did she stop to speak to Henry Was it because she felt sorry for him Or did he approach her Either way before long there was a full-scale fight going on

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