

Varied Fluency

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:

Developing Questions to support using commas to demarcate adverbial phrases, lists and parenthesis.

Expected Questions to support using commas to demarcate adverbial phrases, separate clauses, within lists and for parenthesis.

Greater Depth Questions to support 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

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1a. Match each sentence to show how the commas have been used.

- A. George, who was ten years old, played rugby.
- B. After lunch, Class 5 were practising their assembly.

Adverbial

Parenthesis



VF

1b. Match each sentence to show how the commas have been used.

- A. The hill, which was the highest in the area, had a house on top of it.
- B. In July, Harry is going to Spain.

Adverbial

Parenthesis



VF

2a. True or false? The comma has been used to show an adverbial.

Cleo liked football, climbing, archery and canoeing.



VF

2b. True or false? The comma has been used to show an adverbial.

After the party, Pippa went to the shop.



VF

3a. How have the commas been used in the sentences below?

- A. Class 5, who were being very noisy, were not ready to listen.
- B. Before tea, Jemima had to do her homework.



VF

3b. How have the commas been used in the sentences below?

- A. In the playground, Isla was playing catch.
- B. On Friday, they were going out for tea with their friends.



VF

4a. Insert the missing commas into the sentences below.

- A. She needed to take a jacket her lunch and a drink.
- B. Very carefully she put the vase back on the shelf.
- C. After a few minutes they left the party.



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4b. Insert the missing commas into the sentences below.

- A. She found a pen some crumbs a hair pin and a mug under the table.
- B. During the interval she bought a drink.
- C. In the forest there were many strange noises.



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Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

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5a. Underline where a comma has been used for parenthesis.
Circle where a comma has been used to separate a clause.

A. Alfie, who was full of cold, wanted to play outside in the rain.

B. Although it was raining heavily, Alfie still wanted to play outside.



VF

5b. Underline where a comma has been used for parenthesis.
Circle where a comma has been used to separate a clause.

A. The playground, which was covered in snow, was too slippery to play football.

B. Very red-faced and embarrassed at being caught, Lily stormed off towards the classroom.



VF

6a. True or false? The comma has been used to show parenthesis.

Jake, who was ten years old, was an extremely talented athlete.



VF

6b. True or false? The comma has been used to show parenthesis.

The party which was supposed to start at 1pm, was delayed due to a power cut.



VF

7a. How have the commas been used in the sentences below?

A. Prior to their arrival, Pippa quickly tidied her bedroom.

B. The mountains loomed over the lake, causing an eerie shadow.



VF

7b. How have the commas been used in the sentences below?

A. Before she left, she needed to get her pencil case, notepad and diary.

B. After lunch, they planned to go swimming.



VF

8a. Insert the missing commas into the sentences below.

A. The firefighter who was busy fighting a fire was very thirsty.

B. Storming across the playground Lucy didn't want to join in with their game.

C. She really likes running reading and painting.



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8b. Insert the missing commas into the sentences below.

A. Her favourite foods are pizza crisps tomato and cucumber.

B. During the summer Daisy decided to become vegetarian.

C. Kai who is a talented artist won a competition to have his work in a magazine.



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Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

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9a. Underline where a comma has been used for parenthesis.
Circle where a comma has been used to separate a clause.

The festival should be a great success, even though, regrettably, there is a lot of work still to do.



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9b. Underline where a comma has been used for parenthesis.
Circle where a comma has been used to separate a clause.

Tiptoeing, without making a sound, the balaclava-clad man escaped unnoticed, passing the unsuspecting security guards.



VF

10a. True or false? A comma has been used to show parenthesis.

Underneath the blanket of clouds, the children slept soundly in their tents, unaware of the approaching storm.



VF

10b. True or false? Commas have been used to show parenthesis.

Jacob Smith, 27, reacted to the horrific storm of the previous night by booking a holiday to the Caribbean.



VF

11a. How have the commas been used in the sentence below?

At the base of the mountains, from between the trees, the river meandered lazily across the flat plains towards its final destination, the ocean.



VF

11b. How have the commas been used in the sentence below?

During this week, many people are expected to descend on the local village due to the planned visit of the Queen, especially as the weather forecast is looking good.



VF

12a. Insert the missing commas into the sentences below.

A. Deep under the sea there are many previously unknown creatures being discovered by marine biologists all of which live in complete darkness.

B. Whilst the team were travelling home their parents who were extremely proud had prepared a surprise to celebrate their huge success in the tournament.



VF

12b. Insert the missing commas into the sentences below.

A. During the winter months despite the bitter cold Isaac made sure to wash his dad's car every weekend so that he could receive his extra pocket money.

B. Next to the school before the park the football team were practising hard for their upcoming tournament.



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Varied Fluency Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

Developing

- 1a. A. Parenthesis; B. Adverbial
- 2a. False. Comma is used for a list.
- 3a. A. Parenthesis; B. Adverbial
- 4a. A. She needed to take a jacket, her lunch and a drink.
B. Very carefully, she put the vase back on the shelf.
C. After a few minutes, they left the party.

Expected

- 5a. A. Alfie, who was full of cold, wanted to play outside in the rain.
B. Although it was raining heavily, Alfie still wanted to play outside.
- 6a. True
- 7a. A. Adverbial; B. To separate clauses
- 8a. A. The firefighter, who was busy fighting a fire, was very thirsty.
B. Storming across the playground, Lucy didn't want to join in with their game.
C. She really likes running, reading and painting.

Greater Depth

- 9a. The festival should be a great success, even though, regrettably, there is a lot of work still to do.
- 10a. False. Adverbial and to separate clauses.
- 11a. To separate adverbials; parenthesis
- 12a. A. Deep under the sea, there are many previously unknown creatures being discovered by marine biologists, all of which live in complete darkness.
B. Whilst the team were travelling home, their parents, who were extremely proud, had prepared a surprise to celebrate their huge success in the tournament.

Varied Fluency Using Commas in Lists, Adverbials and Clauses

Developing

- 1b. A. Parenthesis; B. Adverbial
- 2b. True
- 3b. A. Adverbial; B. Adverbial
- 4b. A. She found a pen, some crumbs, a hair pin and a mug under the table.
B. During the interval, she bought a drink.
C. In the forest, there were many strange noises.

Expected

- 5b. A. The playground, which was covered in snow, was too slippery to play football.
B. Very red-faced and embarrassed at being caught, Lily stormed off towards the classroom.
- 6b. False. One comma is missing.
- 7b. A. Adverbial and a list; B. Adverbial
- 8b. A. Her favourite foods are pizza, crisps, tomato and cucumber.
B. During the summer, Daisy decided to become vegetarian.
C. Kai, who is a talented artist, won a competition to have his work in a magazine.

Greater Depth

- 9b. Tiptoeing, without making a sound, the balaclava-clad man escaped unnoticed, passing the unsuspecting security guards.
- 10b. True
- 11b. Adverbial; for parenthesis
- 12b. A. During the winter months, despite the bitter cold, Isaac made sure to wash his dad's car every weekend so that he could receive his extra pocket money.
B. Next to the school, before the park, the football team were practising hard for their upcoming tournament.