

3. Commas

Commas are used to separate items in a list within a sentence. When they are used correctly, they are the mark of a confident, skillful writer.

Unlike full stops, commas are not strong enough to separate sentences, but they can separate items and phrases.

Examples:

1. They separate items in a list:

Between words: *I need to go to the shop to buy milk, cheese, bread and ham.*

Between phrases: *I need to go to the shop to buy a carton of milk, a block of cheese, a loaf of bread and a packet of ham.*

2. They work like brackets (The sentence makes sense with or without the word or phrase)

Between words: *Mary, excitedly, watched as the bus approached.*

Between phrases: *Mary, in an excited moment, watched as the bus approached.*

3. To separate phrases and clauses in sentences (Phrases cannot stand on their own; clauses can.)

Waking up suddenly, she reached for the alarm clock

Phrase- *Waking up suddenly (doesn't make sense on its own. It needs something else to join it.)*

Clause- *She reached for the alarm clock (makes sense on its own)*

In a mad rage, the boy punched the wall.

Phrase- *In a mad rage (doesn't make sense on its own. It needs something else to join it.)*

Clause- *The boy punched the wall (makes sense on its own.)*

Task 1

Separate the items in the list with commas.

1. *The horse was tall fast brown and muscly.*
2. *The recipe needed eggs milk cheese butter and salt.*
3. *In my classroom we have books pens pencils paper sharpeners rubbers and rulers.*

Your turn! Now write one sentence of your own with commas.

1. _____

Task 2

1. Separate the items (phrases) in the list with commas.

I went into town to buy a pair of jeans a long sleeved top and a pair of size 7 trainers.

Your turn! Now write one sentence of your own with commas.

2. Insert commas (like brackets) where necessary. Remember to make sure that the sentence will make sense with or without the word or phrase.

a. I grudgingly wake up at 7am to get read for school.

b. Sarah in a jealous rage hit her brother.

Your turn! Now write one sentence of your own using commas to add in extra information.

Task 3

1. Separate the items (phrases) in the list with commas.

I went into town to buy a pair of jeans a long sleeved top and a pair of size 7 trainers.

Your turn! Now write one sentence of your own with commas.

2. Insert commas (like brackets) where necessary. Remember to make sure that the sentence will make sense with or without the word or phrase.

My brother annoyingly sets his alarm 5 times incase he doesn't hear it the first time.

Your turn! Now write one sentence of your own using commas to add in extra information.

3. Separate the phrase from the clause in each sentence. Remember that a phrase doesn't make sense on its own but a clause does.

- a. When my alarm goes off in the morning I immediately get up.
- b. After lunchtime the students have English.

Your turn! Now write one sentence of your own using a comma to separate the phrase from the clause.

Feedback:

Tick one of the following boxes, depending on how well you think you can meet the learning intention.

	I can do this very well	I can do this well	I understand but need more practice	I don't understand
I can identify when a comma is needed and apply this to my own writing.				

5. Editing Skills (capital letters, full stops, commas and apostrophes)

Read through the passage below and mark any errors you can find.

Remember! You are focusing on capital letters, full stops, commas and apostrophes.

Task 1

You must find the 6 errors.

Have you read a book by Lemony Snicket? lemony snicket is not a real persons name. It's an imaginary name used by the author of the *A Series of Unfortunate Events* books. In those books, which were first published in september of 1999, readers follow Violet Klaus and Sunny as they attempt to protect their fortune from greedy Count Olaf the identity of Lemony is secret, but he communicates through his representative, Daniel Handler.

Task 2

You must find the 8 errors below.

august 6 is a date to remember. On that date in 1945, an American B-29 bomber dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, japan more than 65,000 people were killed in the explosion, which destroyed 4 square miles of the city. All anybody could see in the city were dead bodies fallen buildings and blood. Japans resources were limited. within a week of the bombing, the Japanese government unexpectedly, surrendered and World War II came to an end. Many places now hold special memorial ceremonies on the anniversary of the august 6 bombing.

Task 3

You must find the 8 errors

charles and frank Duryea tested one of the first gas-powered automobiles in september 1893 the vehicle had a 4-horsepower engine. They didnt think that cars would be so successful in the future. The next year inventor Elwood Haynes tested a similar car, the Pioneer. henry Ford began producing the 20-horsepower Model T in 1908. Cars began to have more options modern features and horsepower over the years. In the 1960s, 300-horsepower engines were common. Todays cars weigh less, so even one with a 150-horsepower engine can go fast.

Checklist:

I can:	Tick
<u>Capital Letters</u>	
Understand the functions of a capital letter	
Apply capital letters to my own writing	
<u>Full stops</u>	
Understand the functions of a full stop	
Apply full stops to my own writing	
<u>Commas</u>	
Understand the functions of a comma	
Apply commas to my own writing	
<u>Apostrophes</u>	
Understand the functions of an apostrophe	
Apply apostrophes to my own writing	

