

Y5 Commas For Clarity

KS2 Y5 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Add a comma: 'Thank you Ella for the card.'

Step 1 · Who is being spoken to?

Ella

Step 2 · Mark the name off with commas

Thank you, Ella, for the card.

Answer: Thank you, Ella, for the card.

Check: A name in the middle of a sentence gets a comma on each side.

2. Now try one with the steps

Add a comma: 'Before eating the twins washed their hands.'

Step 1 · Read it aloud. What might a reader think?

Step 2 · Find where the fronted phrase ends

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. Add a comma: 'Come here Leo.'

2. Add a comma: 'Good morning Mr Evans.'

3. Add commas to this list: 'I packed a torch a map a compass and some snacks.'

4. Add a comma: 'After the rain stopped we went outside.'

5. Add a comma: 'While Mum was driving the dog slept.'

6. What does 'Let's eat Grandma!' mean without a comma?

7. Add a comma to make it clear: 'Outside the door was locked.'

8. Add a comma: 'As the bell rang the children lined up.'

9. Add commas: 'Please Ravi can you pass the salt?'

10. How many people? 'I met my sisters, Zara and Kim.' (one comma)

11. Rewrite so it clearly means four people: 'I met my sisters, Zara and Kim.'

12. Add a comma to change the meaning: 'Most of the time travellers worry about delays.'

13. Explain why a comma is needed in: 'When the giant finished eating, the villagers ran away.'

14. What is ambiguity?

4. Before you hand it in

Leaving out the comma after a fronted clause: 'While I was cooking the cat watched.'

While I was cooking, the cat watched.

Missing the comma in direct address: 'Hurry up Mo!'

Hurry up, Mo!

Adding commas everywhere 'to be safe'

Use a comma when it clarifies meaning. Read aloud and listen for the pause.

Thinking a comma fixes every ambiguity

If a comma doesn't help, reorder or add words.