

# COMMAS CENTER

Don't stop;  
just pause!

## INSTRUCTIONS PAGE

**COMMAS**

A comma is a pause. It's not a final stop like a period. It's used to correct new ideas to old ones, and to tell the "reader" when to pause.

COMMA RULES	EXAMPLE SENTENCES
Use a comma to separate three or more items in a series.	Jackie plays basketball, runs track, and is on the debate team.
Use a comma before and after a word or phrase that renames a noun (appositive).	My best math teacher, never gives us homework.
Use a comma when a sentence begins with an introductory word or phrase such as well, as, or for example.	No you may not spend the night with Ethan this weekend.
Use a comma to connect quotations and speech tags.	"Well," replied Suzy "I didn't do it."
Use a comma when a sentence begins with a dependent clause.	Because there were two ice storms, we missed nine days of school this year.
Use a comma to join two independent clauses with a conjunction.	"Well," replied Suzy "I didn't do it."

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Read each comma rule on the commas Mat.
- Read the sentence cards.
- Determine which comma rule should be used to correct each sentence card.
- Complete the "Where are the commas?" worksheet using the comma rules.

## INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

### COMMAS SORTING SENTENCES

cut apart for students to sort

My family enjoys playing board games, watching movies, and going out for ice cream.	After I found out about the contest, I immediately got to work on my entry.
In conclusion, students should not be required to wear school uniforms.	"Yes," shouted Lisa "I finally solved the mystery!"
"Sure," responded Lisa "I would love to go to the dance with you."	My uncle speaks Italian, Spanish, English, and French.
Rosa, my mom's best friend, is picking me up from school today.	Noah plays soccer for the school and Dino plays football.
My friends are going to a concert next week, but my parents won't let me go with them.	Tes, you may go outside after you finish your homework.
Before she can go to the movies, Sophie must wash the dishes.	My cousin bought me a present, so we are going to see her this weekend.
I asked Santa for a new bike, roller skates, and a Ping-Pong table.	My little brother Jimmy is in the 1st grade at Dover Elementary.
"I didn't do it!" Jakob muttered "but I know who did."	If you like musicals, you will love Annie.
	Well, I do not exactly agree with your last statement.
	Kentucky, the number one team in the country, plays basketball today at noon.

**COMMAS MAT**

Use a comma to separate three or more items in a series.	Use a comma before and after a word or phrase that renames a noun (appositive).
Use a comma when a sentence begins with an introductory word or phrase such as well, as, or for example.	Use a comma when a sentence begins with a dependent clause.
Use a comma to connect quotations and speech tags.	Use a comma to join two independent clauses with a conjunction.

### Where are the Commas?

Read each sentence and add the missing commas.

- My family enjoys playing board games, watching movies, and going out for ice cream.
- Rosa, my mom's best friend, is picking me up from school today.
- If you like musicals, you will love Annie.
- Noah plays soccer for the school and Dino plays football.
- "Sure," responded Lisa "I would love to go to the dance with you."
- I asked Santa for a new bike, roller skates, and a Ping-Pong table.
- Before she can go to the movies, Sophie must wash the dishes.
- My uncle speaks Italian, Spanish, English, and French.
- "I didn't do it!" Jakob muttered "but I know who did."
- In conclusion, students should not be required to wear school uniforms.
- After I found out about the contest, I immediately got to work on my entry.
- Tes, you may go outside after you finish your homework.
- My little brother Jimmy is in the 1st grade at Dover Elementary.
- "Yes," shouted Lisa "I finally solved the mystery!"
- My cousin bought me a present, so we are going to see her this weekend.
- Well, I do not exactly agree with your last statement.
- My friends are going to a concert next week, but my parents won't let me go with them.
- Kentucky, the number one team in the country, plays basketball today at noon.

## HANDS-ON ACTIVITY



# COMMAS

A comma is a pause. It's not a final stop like a period. It's used to connect new ideas to old ones, and to tell the reader when to pause.

## COMMA RULES

## EXAMPLE SENTENCES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Use a comma to separate three or more items in a series.  | → Jackie plays basketball runs track and is on the debate team.              |
| Use a comma before and after a word or phrase that renames a noun (appositive).   | → Ms. Bell my math teacher never gives us homework.                          |
| Use a comma when a sentence begins with an introductory word or phrase such as <i>well</i> , <i>yes</i> , or <i>for example</i> . | → No you may not spend the night with Ethan this weekend.                    |
| Use a comma to connect quotations and speech tags.  | → "Well " replied Suzy "I didn't do it."                                     |
| Use a comma when a sentence begins with a dependent clause.   | → Because there were two ice storms we missed nine days of school this year. |
| Use a comma to join two independent clauses with a conjunction.   | → I wanted to buy a soda, but the store was already closed.                  |

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read each comma rule on the commas Mat.
2. Read the sentence cards.
3. Determine which comma rule should be used to correct each sentence card.
4. complete the "Where are the commas?" worksheet using the comma rules.

# COMMAS MAT

Use a comma to separate three or more items in a series.

Use a comma before and after a word or phrase that renames a noun (appositive).

Use a comma when a sentence begins with an introductory word or phrase such as *well*, *yes*, or *for example*.

Use a comma when a sentence begins with a dependent clause.

Use a comma to connect quotations and speech tags.

Use a comma to join two independent clauses with a conjunction.

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Use a comma when a sentence begins with a dependent clause.

Use a comma to connect quotations and speech tags.

Use a comma to join two independent clauses with a conjunction.

# COMMAS SORTING SENTENCES

Cut apart for students to sort.

My family enjoys playing board games watching movies and going out for ice cream.	After I found out about the contest I immediately got to work on my entry.
In conclusion students should not be required to wear school uniforms.	"Yes" shouted Lila "I finally solved the mystery!"
"Sure" responded Lisa "I would love to go to the dance with you."	My uncle speaks Italian Spanish English and French.
Rosa my mom's best friend is picking me up from school today.	Noah plays soccer for the school and Dino plays football.
My friends are going to a concert next week but my parents won't let me go with them.	Yes you may go outside after you finish your homework.
Before she can go to the movies Sophie must wash the dishes.	My cousin bought me a present so we are going to see her this weekend.
I asked Santa for a new bike roller skates and a Ping-Pong table.	My little brother Jimmy is in the 4 <sup>th</sup> grade at Gower Elementary.
"I didn't do it" Jakob muttered "but I know who did."	If you like musicals you will love <i>Annie</i> .
	Well I do not exactly agree with your last statement.
	Kentucky the number one team in the country plays basketball today at noon.

# COMMAS MAT ANSWER KEY

Use a comma to separate three or more items in a series.

My family enjoys playing board games watching movies and going out for ice cream.

I asked Santa for a new bike roller skates and a Ping-Pong table.

My uncle speaks Italian Spanish English and French.

Use a comma before and after a word or phrase that renames a noun (appositive).

Rosa my mom's best friend is picking me up from school today.

My little brother Jimmy is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Gower Elementary.

Kentucky the number one team in the country plays basketball today at noon.

Use a comma when a sentence begins with an introductory word or phrase such as *well*, *yes*, or *for example*.

In conclusion students should not be required to wear school uniforms.

Yes you may go outside after you finish your homework.

Well I do not exactly agree with your last statement.

Use a comma when a sentence begins with a dependent clause.

Before she can go to the movies Sophie must wash the dishes.

After I found out about the contest I immediately got to work on my entry.

If you like musicals you will love *Annie*.

Use a comma to connect quotations and speech tags.

"Sure" responded Lisa "I would love to go to the dance with you."

"I didn't do it" Jakob muttered "but I know who did."

"Yes" shouted Lila "I finally solved the mystery!"

Use a comma to join two independent clauses with a conjunction.

My friends are going to a concert next week but my parents won't let me go with them.

Noah plays soccer for the school and Dino plays football.

My cousin bought me a present so we are going to see her this weekend.

# Where are the Commas?

Read each sentence and add the missing commas.

1. My family enjoys playing board games watching movies and going out for ice cream.
2. Rosa my mom's best friend is picking me up from school today.
3. If you like musicals you will love *Annie*.
4. Noah plays soccer for the school and Dino plays football.
5. "Sure" responded Lisa "I would love to go to the dance with you."
6. I asked Santa for a new bike roller skates and a Ping-Pong table.
7. Before she can go to the movies Sophie must wash the dishes.
8. My uncle speaks Italian Spanish English and French.
9. "I didn't do it" Jakob muttered "but I know who did."
10. In conclusion students should not be required to wear school uniforms.
11. After I found out about the contest I immediately got to work on my entry.
12. Yes you may go outside after you finish your homework.
13. My little brother Jimmy is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Gower Elementary.
14. "Yes" shouted Lila "I finally solved the mystery!"
15. My cousin bought me a present so we are going to see her this weekend.
16. Well I do not exactly agree with your last statement.
17. My friends are going to a concert next week but my parents won't let me go with them.
18. Kentucky the number one team in the country plays basketball today at noon.

# Where are the Commas?

## ANSWER KEY

1. My family enjoys playing board games, watching movies, and going out for ice cream.
2. Rosa, my mom's best friend, is picking me up from school today.
3. If you like musicals, you will love *Annie*.
4. Noah plays soccer for the school, and Dino plays football.
5. "Sure," responded Lisa, "I would love to go to the dance with you."
6. I asked Santa for a new bike, roller skates, and a Ping-Pong table.
7. Before she can go to the movies, Sophie must wash the dishes.
8. My uncle speaks Italian, Spanish, English, and French.
9. "I didn't do it," Jakob muttered, "but I know who did."
10. In conclusion, students should not be required to wear school uniforms.
11. After I found out about the contest, I immediately got to work on my entry.
12. Yes, you may go outside after you finish your homework.
13. My little brother, Jimmy, is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Gower Elementary.
14. "Yes," shouted Lila, "I finally solved the mystery!"
15. My cousin bought me a present, so we are going to see her this weekend.
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