



# Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Using Commas to Separate  
Items in a List

# Using Commas to Separate Items in a List





# Title

**Introductory Activity**

**Independent Focused Activity**

**Review Activity**

**Consolidation Activity**

**Assessment**

# Aim

- Help readers by separating items in a list with commas.

# Success Criteria

- I can find and count commas.
- I can write my own commas.
- I can use commas instead of 'and' when writing a list.
- I can use commas only where they are needed.



# Introductory Activity





**Can you write a list of things that you can see around you?**

# What is a List?



A comma looks like this:



You need to know how to write one!

Draw a line on a piece of paper and draw a massive comma at one side of it. Move along your line drawing your comma smaller each time, until it is the size of your normal handwriting.

# What is a List?



Commas are one of the most commonly used punctuation marks in English.

A comma tells a reader to take a short pause when they are reading but not as long as a full stop.

Practise reading out loud with the following paragraph, thinking about what to do when you reach a full stop or a comma.



The parrot was bright, blue and beautiful. He had green wings, a silver beak and yellow feet.



# Commas vs Full Stops



Comma hunt – pick a page of your reading book and see how many commas you can count. Which are there more of - commas or full stops?

Commas



Full Stops



Read the words in your head – **can you pause in the right places for the right amount of time?**

Commas have lots of uses in English - today we will be looking at how commas are used to separate items on a list.

# What is a List?



A list is a collection of items, words or phrases.

**Can you think of any occasions when we use lists?**

When we use lists in our writing, we need to turn them into full sentences.

- **Could you get to the end of the sentence without running out of breath?**
- **Did the sentence sound nice or have a boring rhythm to it?**

We could do this using 'and' to link all of the items together but there are problems with this. Read the list below out loud:

Dear Santa, for Christmas I would like a bike and a laptop and a dog and a horse and a teddy bear and a building brick set and a pencil sharpener and a trumpet.



# Commas to the Rescue!



Replacing the 'and's with commas will give your reader a pause for breath and give your sentence much more character. Always use 'and' just before the last item in the list, to finish your sentence correctly!

Try this example:

The superhero wore a cape, ~~and~~ gloves, ~~and~~ a mask and boots.

The superhero wore a cape, gloves, a mask and boots.



# WANTED

Unnecessary  
Commas

I would like to go, shopping,  
for, some, trousers, a, top,  
some, trainers, and, a, cap.

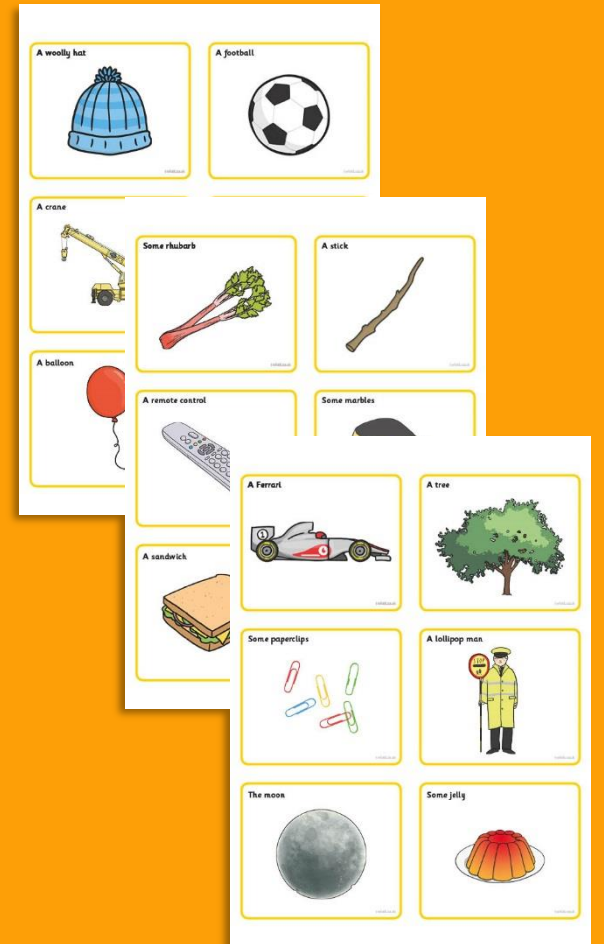
**Don't use too many!**

# Create Your Own List



Choose a sentence starter or roll a dice to pick one:

1. In my lunch box I have...
2. My favourite things are...
3. If I won a million pounds I would buy...
4. Yesterday my dog ate...
5. For my birthday I was given...
6. When I looked in the teacher's drawer, I saw...





# What next?

- Look at this picture of a wolf. Can you label it's features (e.g. fur, eyes, teeth)? After you have done that turn it into a sentence which starts with "Wolves have...."
- Make sure you put your commas in the right place!
- **Challenge:** Can you add adjectives to your list?



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