

Commas Matter

- level one -

LET'S GET REAL

Commas are tricky - like sneak into the graduation party just for the food, eat and leave tricky - but their reign of terror is over. **THEY NEED TO BE PUT IN THEIR PLACE.**

Commas are meant to prevent confusion and misunderstanding. A common mistake people make is that they think a pause signals a comma - **THIS IS NOT THE CASE!** A pause of breath does not always signal a comma.

I Constantly
feel out of
place.



QUICK RULE #1: The pause that signals a comma usually includes a change of pitch- give it a try!

Example #1: Let's eat, Grandma! (*aw, how nice! You have your grandma over for dinner!*)

Example #2: Let's eat Grandma! (*..... I'll pass, thanks [please don't eat me.]*)

Note: THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS: The 'said' clause - A pause that indicates a comma is when the direct object is a direct quotation following a verb.

Example: He said, "I love you." (no pitch change)

Remember:

- Use a **comma** between words or groups of words that are in a series.
-EXAMPLE: Corn, green beans, and tomatoes are staples in every home garden.
- Use a **comma** before a conjunction in a compound sentence.
-EXAMPLE: The farmers planted in the spring, and they will work long hours in the fall to harvest.
- Use a **comma** after a subordinate clause when it begins in a sentence.
-EXAMPLE: After we went to a movie, we went out to eat.

Directions: Add commas where needed in the sentence below.

1. Alec, Leann, and Madison are planning a welcome home party for their friend.
2. It is their friend's first time home all summer, and they want to make it special.
3. They have invited the people that live in his neighborhood, his family that lives close by, and his friends from school.
4. Even though he doesn't get home until tonight, this will be hard to plan it in his own house.
5. Trey is involved, friendly, and active in many things.
6. For their surprise to work, everyone will have to stay off of social media all day so he doesn't see what they are doing.
7. This is especially hard for Madison, but she will have to deal with it for one day.
8. Since every Friday his family has a big dinner, it was no surprise to Trey that there were a lot of cars in his driveway.

REVERSE Grammar

Directions: Grammar is tricky. This activity challenges you to choose the best word that would not otherwise fit in each sentence. Your task is to select one word and incorrectly use that word in each of the sentences below. (Note: you have two options for questions with three (s).

Incorrectly identify the usage of their, there and they're.

1. I went over to their house last night.
2. They're such a nice family!
3. Did they put their clothes away?
4. My friends sold their house.
5. They're coming over later today.
6. Take a seat over there.

Incorrectly identify the usage of who's and whose.

1. Who's going to cook supper?
2. Whose shirt is this?
3. Who's going out for lunch?
4. Whose favorite food is pizza?

Incorrectly identify the usage of your and you're.

1. You're really funny!
2. You're going to need a pencil.
3. I hope we go to your house!
4. Your textbook is brand new.

Incorrectly identify the usage of its and it's.

1. It's a beautiful day!
2. The kitten ran to its bed.
3. Where is its bed?
4. It's almost lunch time!

Incorrectly identify the usage of were and we're.

1. We're coming over tonight!
2. Were you at practice today?
3. I would, if I were you.
4. We're so excited for school to start!

Incorrectly identify the usage of than and then.

1. You are taller than I am.
2. I will go, then too.
3. My hair is longer than yours.
4. By then, he was tired.

Incorrectly identify the usage of to, too and two.

1. I ate two sandwiches for lunch.
2. I'm going too!
3. I am going to their house.
4. We have two cars.
5. I would like to come too.
6. Go to your room!

Incorrectly identify the usage of affect and effect.

1. The new law will go into effect tomorrow.
2. This will affect my decision.
3. Will this affect the economy?
4. The low grade will not affect my average.

Incorrectly identify the usage of lose and loose.

1. The seat belt was very loose.
2. We do not want to lose the game!
3. Did you lose my keys?
4. Wow! Your pants are really loose!

Incorrectly identify the usage of threw and through.

1. I went through the tunnel.
2. I plan to drive through there tomorrow.
3. I threw the ball into the air.
4. He threw water on me!

Incorrectly identify the usage of accept and except.

1. I accept your apology.
2. I would, except I already have plans.
3. Everyone is going, except you.
4. I will accept the punishment.

Incorrectly identify the usage of principal and principle.

1. The principal's office is over there.
2. Review the principal of the loan.
3. Quiet! The principal is coming!
4. He was a man of principle.

Answer Key