

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 words).

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

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

Incorrectly identify the usage of **to, too** and **two**.

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

Incorrectly identify the usage of **who's** and **whose**.

1. _____ going to cook supper?
2. _____ shirt is this?
3. _____ going out for lunch?
4. _____ favorite food is pizza?

Incorrectly identify the usage of **affect** and **effect**.

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

Incorrectly identify the usage of **your** and **you're**.

1. _____ really funny!
2. _____ going to need a pencil.
3. I hope we go to _____ house!
4. _____ textbook is brand new.

Incorrectly identify the usage of **lose** and **loose**.

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

Incorrectly identify the usage of **its** and **it's**.

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

Incorrectly identify the usage of **throw** and **through**.

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

Incorrectly identify the usage of **were** and **we're**.

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

Incorrectly identify the usage of **accept** and **except**.

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

Incorrectly identify the usage of **than** and **then**.

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

Incorrectly identify the usage of **principal** and **principle**.

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