

Name:

Date:

10
total marks

Using Commas to Clarify Meaning Mini Test

1. Tick the sentences with meanings which could be changed with the addition of a comma.

a) She found a mouse trap and cheese all in the bucket as planned.

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b) David had said he didn't care.

☐

c) The weather was horrible all day so they stayed in.

☐

d) He asked for money and Lego for his birthday.

☐

e) Don't risk it Grandma.

☐

4 marks

2. How do commas affect the meaning of these sentences? Explain briefly for each pair.

a) As the sun shone orange, people looked desperately for shade.

As the sun shone, orange people looked desperately for shade.

b) When he saw the pirate ship on the horizon, the captain sounded the alarm.

When he saw the pirate ship, on the horizon the captain sounded the alarm.

2 marks

total for
this page

3. Add or remove commas to give these sentences the required meaning.

3 marks

a) Writing, clearly, isn't easy.

Can you add or remove commas in that sentence to make it mean that 'writing so everyone can understand isn't easy'?

b) Jess likes baking cats and doing ballet.

Can you add commas in the sentence so it shows that Jess has three hobbies.

c) Debbie's heroes are her parents, Spiderman, and Catwoman.

Can you add or remove commas so that the sentence suggests that Debbie's parents *are* Spiderman and Catwoman.

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****END OF TEST****

total for
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1 Tick the sentences with meanings which could be changed with the addition of a comma. a) She found a mouse, trap and cheese all in the bucket as planned. b) David had said, he didn't care. c) The weather was horrible all day so they stayed in. d) He asked for money, and Lego for his birthday. e) Don't, risk it Grandma.	4 marks
2 How do commas affect the meaning of these sentences? Explain briefly for each pair. a) As the sun shone orange, people looked desperately for shade. As the sun shone, orange people looked desperately for shade. <i>In the first sentence, the sun is orange. In the second sentence it is the people that are orange.</i> b) When he saw the pirate ship on the horizon, the captain sounded the alarm. When he saw the pirate ship, on the horizon the captain sounded the alarm. <i>In the first sentence, the captain sees the pirate ship on the horizon. In the second sentence, the captain is on the horizon himself.</i>	2 marks
3 Add or remove commas to give these sentences the required meaning. a) Writing, clearly, isn't easy. Can you add or remove commas in this sentence to make it mean 'writing so everyone can understand isn't easy'? <i>Writing clearly isn't easy.</i> b) Jess likes baking cats and doing ballet. Can you add commas in that sentence so it shows that Jess has three hobbies. <i>Jess likes baking, cats and doing ballet.</i> c) Debbie's heroes are her parents, Spiderman, and Catwoman. Can you add or remove commas so that the sentence suggests that Debbie's parents are Spiderman and Catwoman. <i>Debbie's heroes are her parents, Spiderman and Catwoman.</i>	3 marks