

7 COMMA RULES

Hands-On Sentence Building

Comma Rules Included:

- compound sentences
- complex sentences
- apposition
- tag question commas
- introductory element commas
- commas in dialogue
- direct address comma

7 PRINT & GO ACTIVITIES

Compound Sentences



You can combine two short complete sentences, or independent phrases, by adding a comma and one of the FANBOYS conjunctions, which are: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. It looks like this:

I like tacos, but I love pizza even more.

In the example above, the underlined parts are complete sentences on their own, but when combined with a comma and a conjunction, they form a compound sentence. Select one of the compound sentences that you built, and write it down here. Don't forget your punctuation marks!



Complex Sentences

A complex sentence is made up of one independent clause and at least one or more dependent, or subordinate, clauses. When a complex sentence starts with a dependent clause, you use a comma after it. Here are two different ways to write the same sentence. Notice which one has a comma. The independent phrases are underlined.

Since it was raining, my soccer practice was cancelled.

My soccer practice was cancelled since it was raining.

Select one of the complex sentences that you built, and write it down here. Don't forget your punctuation marks!

"Punctuating Dialogue"



Dialogue tags show us who is speaking. Authors use a comma to separate the dialogue tag (he said) from the actual line of dialogue, which can come at the beginning, end, or even in the middle of the sentence. Here are 3 examples:

"Let's go home," Bob said.

Bob said, "Let's go home."

"Let's go home," Bob said, "before it starts raining."

Select one of the sentences that you built, and write it down here. Don't forget your punctuation marks!

we saw lots of animals

Jenny wanted to play outside

The teacher assigned us a project

Sam can buy the book

they didn't want to ask for directions

we had to work in groups to finish it

he can borrow the book from the library

they were lost

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but

yet

or

so

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Sam said

Alex said

said Mom

I said

”

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Miguel said you were ma

Finish your homework before

Please share your toys with yo

Quiet down or we'll get in

I'm sorry I hurt your fe

although I like pineapples

I still like art

after I get out of school

when I was in kindergarten

I have soccer practice

during a thunderstorm

even though I can't draw well

I wanted to be an astronaut

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USE WHEN YOU TEACH EACH COMMA RULE OR AS A TEST PREP CENTERS ACTIVITY



Introductory Word Comma

Use a comma after an introductory word such as Yes or No. Other common introductory words are: suddenly, however, on the other hand, finally, next, unfortunately, for example, therefore, in conclusion. Here are 2 different ways examples.

"Yes, I love pizza."

"Unfortunately, I can't go to the park right now."

As you read, look for an example of the introductory word comma and write it down here:

Now try writing one of your own! Don't forget your comma.



Direct Address Comma

When directly addressing, or speaking, to someone, we use a comma to set their name apart from the rest of the sentence. Here are 3 different ways examples.

"Sam, please water my plants while I'm away."

"While I'm away, Sam, please water my plants."

"Great job, Sam."

Select one of the sentences that you built, and write it down here. Don't forget your punctuation marks!

Sam's friend isn't home right now.	thank you.
Yum	Sure
Yes	No
Hmm	Well
	Sadly
	Unfortunately
	Hey



Tag Question Comma

Sometimes authors like to tag a question on the end of a sentence. They use a comma to separate the sentence from the question they tagged on. It looks like this:

You like pizza, don't you?

The show hasn't started yet, has it?

You understand, right?

Select one of the tag question sentences that you built, and write it down here. Don't forget your punctuation marks!

how's it going	,	!
now turn to page 173	,	!
please hand me my phone	,	!
and you know that I have a dog	,	!



Commas in Apposition

Authors like to pack each sentence with lots of information. One way is to use an appositive phrase. You interrupt a sentence with commas to add extra information that describes a noun. It looks like this:

My mom, a scientist, is working on finding a cure for cancer.

In the example above, the words "a scientist" describes my mom. Select one of the appositive sentences that you built, and write it down here. Don't forget your punctuation marks!

My dog is an English Bulldog	,	!
Kate loves to dance.	,	!
The local bookstore is having a sale	,	!
Our school is hosting a career fair	,	!
a stuffed dragon	,	!
my best friend	,	!
the Book Loft	,	!
Lincoln Elementary	,	!
Tilly	,	!

SAVE



WHEN YOU BUY THE BUNDLE!

An illustration of three construction workers (two men and one woman) wearing orange hard hats and safety vests. They are holding a large white sheet of paper that lists grammar topics. The entire illustration is framed by a thick blue border.

- Commas in a Series
- Direct Address
- Compound Sentences
- Complex Sentences
- Tag Question
- Apposition
- Introductory Elements
- Punctuating Dialogue
- Interactive Comma Rules

HANDS-ON GRAMMAR

Activity Bundle

iTeach and iWrite
Betsy Newmeyer