

Commas in sentences

If your sentence has more than one point, there are several ways to write it.

Jane's dog ran straight into the water. Her dog was a retriever.
could be written as:

Jane's dog, a retriever, ran straight into the water.

The second sentence is clearer, shorter and sounds much better. It pushes in the new information, which is called *embedding*. Have a look at the commas in the second sentence.

Activity 1

Copy this paragraph into your books, adding the commas where necessary:
After school we went to the shop which was around the corner to get some sweets. I picked some cherry-bombs a few apple fizzers my favourite and some triple-ripples which painted your tongue all the colours of the rainbow. We finished eating all the sweets and then went to play on the swings that were in the park.

Activity 2

In your Fine book, make two columns. Go through your reading book, writing down all the words that follow a comma in the left hand column. In the right hand column, write down what types of words they are e.g. noun (name), verb (doing), adjective (describing), pronoun (shortened proper noun). List at least 15 words. What do you notice?

Activity 3

Shorten these sentences using commas, like the example at the top.

1. Katie had a new friend who she always wanted to play. Her name was Julie.
2. The robber tore his jumper on the barbed wire. The jumper was stripy.
3. Plastic chickens had never been seen on the farm before. They looked very scary!
4. The fire was so hot that the glass started to start smashing. The fire was on the third floor.
5. The coffee was all over the carpet and was spreading fast. The carpet was new.

Activity 4

Write seven sentences that use commas in them. Only two can be lists. Here are some ideas for your sentences:

Robot mice chocolate rain Cowboy TV dancing plates talking socks

Activity 5

Using your reading book, identify the commas and rewrite the sentences so that the commas are not needed.