

Name _____

Commas

Commas can clarify meaning and tell readers when to pause.

- Put a comma after every item in a *series* but the last.
Poets pay attention to the sounds, meanings, and emotions of words.
The audience applauded, cheered, and stood up.
- When you speak or write to someone, you may use the person's name or title. This noun of *direct address* is set off with a comma, or two commas if it is in the middle of a sentence.
Will you read some more, Mr. Berry?
I'd love to, children, if you aren't tired of sitting.
- *Appositives* are noun phrases that describe another noun. They are set off by commas.
Ted Kooser, a wonderful poet, lives in Nebraska.
- Put a comma after an *introductory word or phrase*, such as *yes, no, well, of course, or in fact*.
No, I haven't read the new book. As usual, I'm too busy.

Directions Add commas to each sentence where they are needed.

1. Harry enjoys writing stories poems and articles.
2. Voni do you prefer reading fairy tales tall tales or myths?
3. *King Midas* a myth about values features a greedy king.
4. Were you surprised Kaela when the glowing young man appeared?
5. No I expect magical things to happen in tales.
6. King Midas's gift is deadly because he cannot eat drink or touch people.

Directions Rewrite each sentence. Add commas where they are needed.

7. By the way King Midas what did you learn about gold?

8. I learned that gold is cold hard and meaningless by itself.



Home Activity Your child learned about commas. Record a short conversation with your child about his or her favorite foods or activities. Ask your child to write the conversation adding commas where they are needed.

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Directions Mark the letter of the choice that tells why commas are used in each sentence.

1. The king ate porridge, toast, and jam.
 - A series
 - B appositive
 - C introductory word
 - D direct address
2. Dad, do you know this story?
 - A series
 - B appositive
 - C introductory word
 - D direct address
3. This story is a myth, a kind of story.
 - A series
 - B appositive
 - C introductory word
 - D direct address
4. Yes, it has a happy ending.
 - A series
 - B appositive
 - C introductory word
 - D direct address

Directions Mark the letter of the choice that shows the word or words and punctuation needed to complete each sentence correctly.

5. A king's castle had a drawbridge, _____ lookout towers.
 - A a moat and
 - B a moat and,
 - C a moat, and
 - D a moat, and,
6. Look at this picture _____ Cate.
 - A of, a castle,
 - B of a castle,
 - C of a castle
 - D of a castle;
7. Medieval castles were _____ homes.
 - A fortresses gathering places and
 - B fortresses, gathering places and,
 - C fortresses, gathering places and
 - D fortresses, gathering places, and
8. _____ have you ever seen a castle?
 - A Henry,
 - B Henry
 - C Henry;
 - D , Henry
9. _____ castles sat on a hilltop and had high stone walls.
 - A Usually,
 - B Usually
 - C Usually;
 - D Usually.
10. Castles were designed as _____ attack.
 - A fortresses; strongholds against
 - B fortresses. Strongholds against
 - C fortresses, strongholds against
 - D fortresses strongholds against
11. A castle usually had a _____ around it.
 - A moat; a water-filled ditch;
 - B moat, a water-filled ditch,
 - C moat. A water-filled ditch
 - D moat a water -filled ditch
12. _____ a moat did not always have water in it.
 - A No,
 - B No;
 - C No
 - D No.



Home Activity Your child prepared for taking tests on commas. Ask your child to give example sentences to teach you about the four uses of commas he or she learned.

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Directions Add commas to each sentence where they are needed.

1. Many tales involve kingdoms magic creatures and wishes.
2. Have you noticed Danny that humans always seem to use these wishes foolishly?
3. Yes tales also often have a young person as the hero.
4. Tales usually have a talking animal stone or tree.
5. One tale featured Excalibur a sword with a mind of its own.
6. Mr. Wickness our reading teacher said we could write a tale a mystery or a poem.

Directions Rewrite each sentence. Add commas where they are needed.

7. Gold has been used for centuries to make coins jewelry and accessories.

8. Can you tell me Mr. Liakos if the king's crown is made of gold?

9. Yes it is made of gold and inset with precious gems.

10. Both crown and scepter a staff symbolizing the king's power were made of valuable materials.

11. In fact the scepter has more diamonds on it than the crown does.



Home Activity Your child reviewed commas. Ask your child to write an imaginary conversation between two friends about their favorite things. Have your child highlight the commas in another color.