

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

COMMAS

Commas are used to

- separate items in a list
- separate direct speech from a reporting clause
- indicate parenthesis within a sentence with an embedded clause
- avoid ambiguity
- separate main and subordinate clauses.

The main focus for this activity is using commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity.

If you use a comma it can change the meaning of a sentence entirely.

For example,

Go tell the king Hermione is innocent.

Go tell the king, Hermione is innocent.

The comma makes it clear you're telling the king something — not telling the king Hermione (which would sound like Hermione is the king's name!).

Useful article:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc773k7#zrgg>

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Instructions: Rewrite each sentence, adding in commas.

1. Run Paulina the queen is calling!

2. Come Leontes you must rest.

3. Wait Mamillius your father is angry.

4. Listen Hermione Polixenes must leave soon.

5. Please my lord forgive the queen

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CHALLENGE:

Write down or discuss with a partner why do we need commas in each of the sentences above?