L.I: TO USE COMMAS TO CLARIFY MEANING OR AVOID AMBIGUITY

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,

There was Caesar at the front of the procession, smiling and waving to the crowd drinking, in the love of the people.

There was Caesar at the front of the procession, smiling and waving to the crowd**, drinking in the love of the people.**

By putting the comma after *crowd* instead of *drinking*, the meaning of the sentence changes completely.

Useful article:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc773k7#zrggdb

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EXERCISE 1:
REWRITE EACH SENTENCE, ADDING IN COMMAS.

1. Let's eat Caesar!

_____

_____

2. After Caesar left Brutus Casca and Cassius met up to talk.

_____

_____

3. The soothsayer chased Caesar shouting

_____

_____

4. That's Caesar Marullus.

_____

_____

5. Caesar dismissed the soothsayer walking away.

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_____

1. Let's eat Caesar!

   Let's eat, Caesar!

2. After Caesar left Brutus Casca and Cassius met up to talk.

   After Caesar left, Brutus, Casca and Cassius met up to talk.

3. The soothsayer chased Caesar shouting "Beware the ides of March"

   The soothsayer chased Caesar, shouting, "Beware the ides of March"

4. That's Caesar Marullus.

   That's Caesar, Marullus.

5. Caesar dismissed the soothsayer walking away.

   Caesar dismissed the soothsayer, walking away.