

MACBETH: Act 1 Year 5 and Year 6 Punctuation Exercise: Commas

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

“I love eating my friends and dancing” said Mercutio.

“I love eating, my friends and dancing” said Mercutio.

 By putting a comma after eating, the meaning of the sentence changes completely.

Useful videos:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrdyvk7>



Macbeth: Act 1
Year 5 and Year 6
Punctuation Exercise

Exercise 1:

Rewrite each sentence, adding in commas.

1. At last the Scots won the battle.

2. "When shall we three meet again In thunder lightning or in rain?"

3. "Listen you must kill King Duncan"

4. Macbeth thought Lady Macbeth was weak

5. The battle was in full swing with people swinging swords fighting screaming in terror.

6. King Duncan announced “Malcolm will be King!”

7. Macbeth was furious when he heard Malcolm not him would be King

Macbeth: Act 1
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Punctuation Exercise
ANSWERS

Exercise 1:

Rewrite each sentence, adding in commas.

1. At last the Scots won the battle.
At last, the Scots won the battle.
2. "When shall we three meet again In thunder lightning or in rain?"
"When shall we three meet again, In thunder, lightning or in rain?"
3. "Listen you must kill King Duncan"
"Listen, you must kill King Duncan"
4. Macbeth thought Lady Macbeth was weak
Macbeth, thought Lady Macbeth, was weak
5. The battle was in full swing with people swinging swords fighting screaming in terror.
The battle was in full swing with people swinging swords, fighting, screaming in terror.
6. King Duncan announced "Malcolm will be King!"
King Duncan announced, "Malcolm will be King!"
7. Macbeth was furious when he heard Malcolm not him would be King
Macbeth was furious when he heard Malcolm, not him, would be King