

Fast Five

Here are the items in my fridge. Can you put them into an alphabetical bullet pointed list?

Cheese, Milk, Orange Juice, ham, eggs, chorizo, yoghurts, lamb, sausages, bacon

Fast five answers

Fridge contents:

- Bacon
- Cheese
- Chorizo
- Eggs
- Ham
- Lamb
- Milk
- Orange Juice
- Sausages
- Yoghurts

Can I use commas for
clarity?

Sometimes a comma can make a huge difference to the meaning of a sentence. Consider these two interpretations...



When do we use commas?

We use commas:

- *To separate items in a list.
- *After a fronted adverbial.
- *To indicate extra information in a sentence.
- *After direct speech.

This lesson may call on your knowledge of general comma use but it is primarily about using commas to make the meaning of sentences absolutely clear. On some occasions a comma may be needed even though there is no grammatical rule that requires it.

Red Task

Can you show the huge difference one comma makes to the meaning of these sentences by illustrating each version or explaining the difference in words? Colour in your pictures – be imaginative.

1a) Slow children crossing.

1b) Slow, children crossing.

2a) Eat Daniel !

2b) Eat, Daniel !

3a) Look at that blue, bearded man.

3b) Look at that blue bearded man.

Yellow Task

Can you use commas in the following sentences to ensure there are two different ways to read them? Some sentences may just need to be left without commas.

- The view I imagined was amazing.
The view I imagined was amazing.
- When the lightning turned incredibly bright yellow people began to get scared.
When the lightning turned incredibly bright yellow people began to get scared.
- The girl who didn't like spiders was terrified.
The girl who didn't like spiders was terrified.
- He brought home some old folders and a donut which he ate as soon as he got hungry.
He brought home some old folders and a donut which he ate as soon as he got hungry.
- Hurry up and shoot grandad.
Hurry up and shoot grandad.

Green task

- The view I imagined was amazing.
The view I imagined was amazing.
- When the lightning turned incredibly bright yellow people began to get scared.
When the lightning turned incredibly bright yellow people began to get scared.
- The girl who didn't like spiders was terrified.
The girl who didn't like spiders was terrified.
- He brought home some old folders and a donut which he ate as soon as he got hungry.
He brought home some old folders and a donut which he ate as soon as he got hungry.
- Hurry up and shoot grandad.
Hurry up and shoot grandad.
- David said the astronaut was scared.
David said the astronaut was scared.
- When she's not working she loves eating her dog and her family.
When she's not working she loves eating her dog and her family.
- She found to her horror films were boring.
She found to her horror films were boring.
- Compared to a giant star wars seemed so tiny and small.
Compared to a giant star wars seemed so tiny and small.
- All the time machines were getting more intelligent and powerful.
All the time machines were getting more intelligent and powerful.