

Commas



Commas are used
to separate
items in a list.



**I like
cooking my family
and my pets.**

**Use commas.
Don't be a psycho.**



Commas are used to separate items in a list

The last but one item in a list is usually joined with the word 'and' instead of a comma.

For example:

We had chips, sausages, bacon and peas for lunch.

A bride should have something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.

Where do the commas go?

1. I like to play with Jill Jan Joe and Brad.
2. I like red green blue and orange.
3. Kate Kim and Abbey joined the team.
4. Don't forget to empty the rubbish vacuum the carpet and clean the windows!
5. Students should concentrate listen and try hard to succeed.
6. Would you rather have pizza chips or hot dogs?

Answers

Did you get them right?

1. I like to play with Jill, Jan, Joe and Brad.
2. I like red, green, blue and orange.
3. Kate, Kim and Abbey joined the team.
4. Don't forget to empty the rubbish, vacuum the carpet and clean the windows!
5. Students should concentrate, listen and try hard to succeed.
6. Would you rather have pizza, chips, or hot dogs?

More difficult: Where do the commas go?

1. Did you know I got 100% in the English exam? I got 40% in reading 30% in spelling and 30% in punctuation.
2. Station announcer: 'The train now arriving at platforms four five six seven and eight is coming in sideways!'
3. Astrologer to client: 'If you had been born two days later, you would have been kind generous considerate and intelligent.'
4. 'Name five days of the week without saying "Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday or Friday".'
5. At the school camp, a contest was held for the oddest object found on the beach, and the result was – 1st Smith 2nd Jones 3rd Tims 4th Roberts ands 5th Jenkins.

Answers

Did you get them right?

1. Did you know I got 100% in the English exam? I got 40% in reading, 30% in spelling and 30% in punctuation.
2. Station announcer: 'The train now arriving at platforms four, five, six, seven and eight is coming in sideways!'
3. Astrologer to client: 'If you had been born two days later, you would have been kind, generous, considerate and intelligent.'
4. 'Name five days of the week without saying "Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday".'
5. At the school camp, a contest was held for the oddest object found on the beach, and the result was – 1st Smith, 2nd Jones, 3rd Hobbs, 4th Roberts and 5th Jenkins.

Choose 3 from below and write full sentences about the following, including a list with commas:

- The things in your pockets 
- The furniture in your bedroom
- The people in your family
- Things you like to do after school
- Your favourite TV programmes
- Your favourite foods



The Oxford Comma Debate

The 'Oxford comma' is an optional comma before the word 'and' at the end of a list:

We sell books, videos, and magazines.

It's known as the Oxford comma because it was traditionally used by printers, readers, and editors at Oxford University Press.

<https://youtu.be/ILMawsZ4vdo>

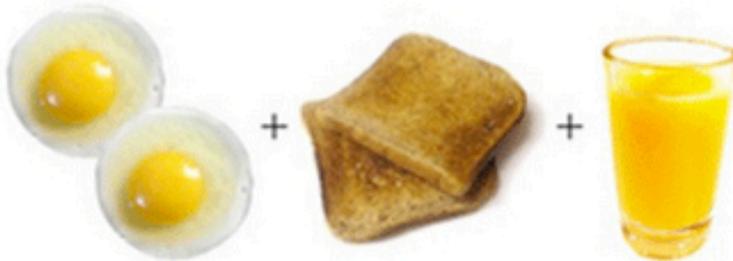


WHY I STILL USE THE OXFORD COMMA

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WITH:

I had eggs, toast, and orange juice.



WITHOUT:

I had eggs, toast and orange juice.



What's your opinion on the Oxford Comma?