

What's the difference between
a cat and a comma?

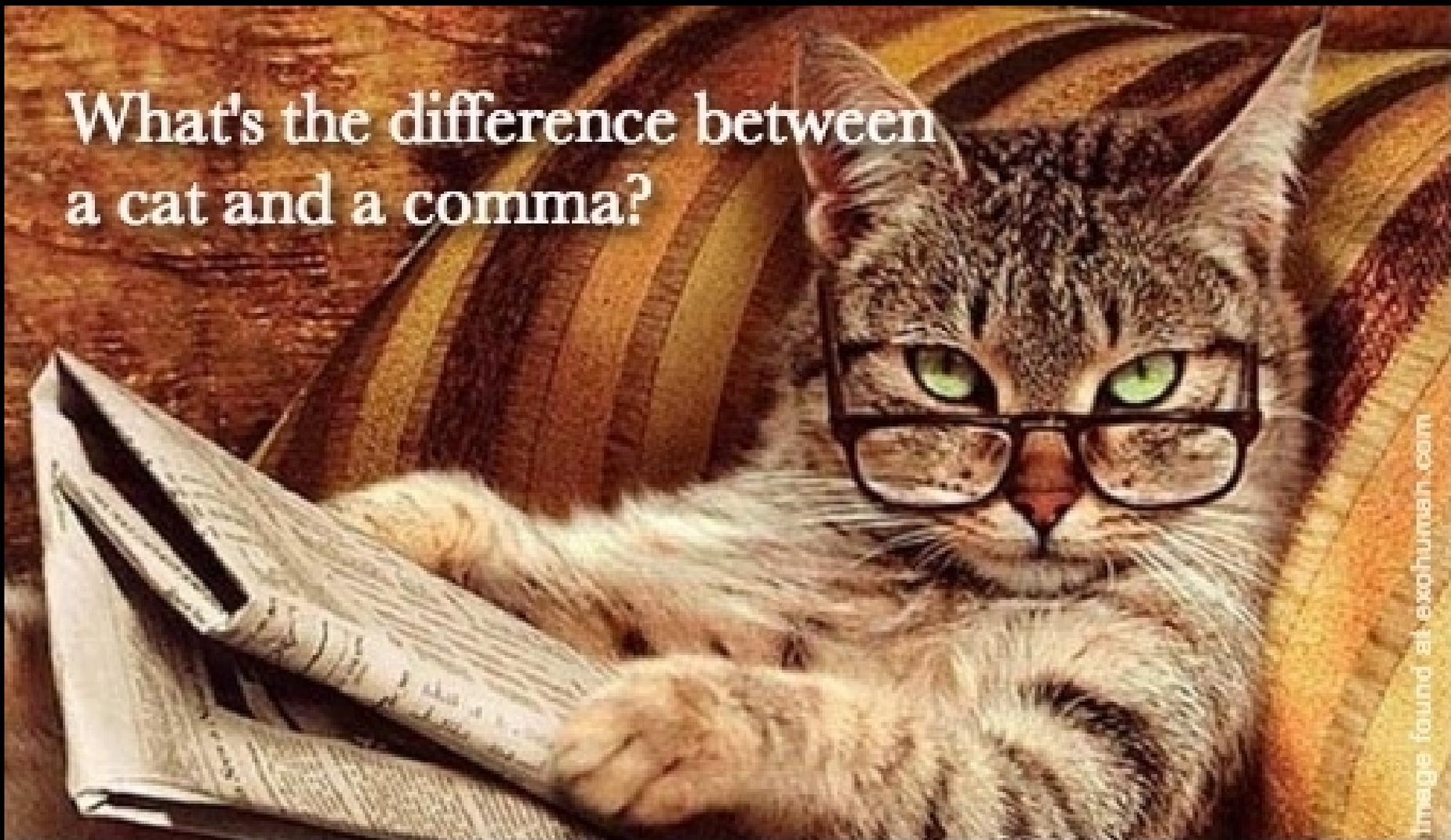
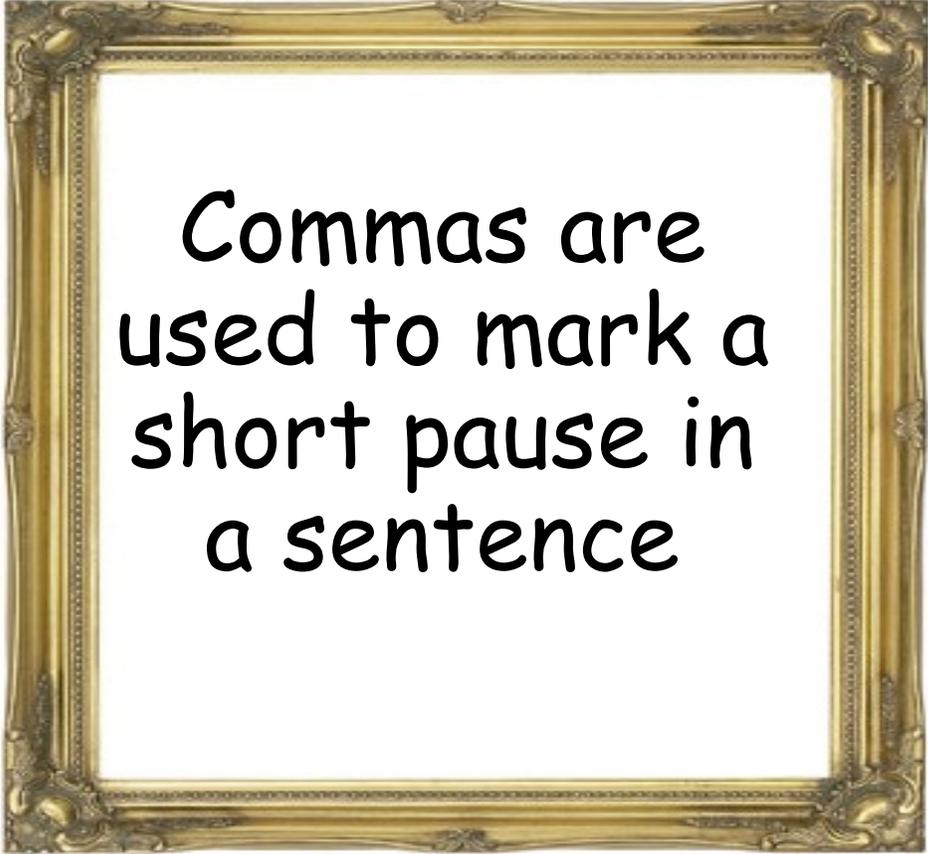


image found at exohuman.com

One has claws at the end of its paws,
and one is a pause at the end of a clause.

Commas



Commas are
used to mark a
short pause in
a sentence



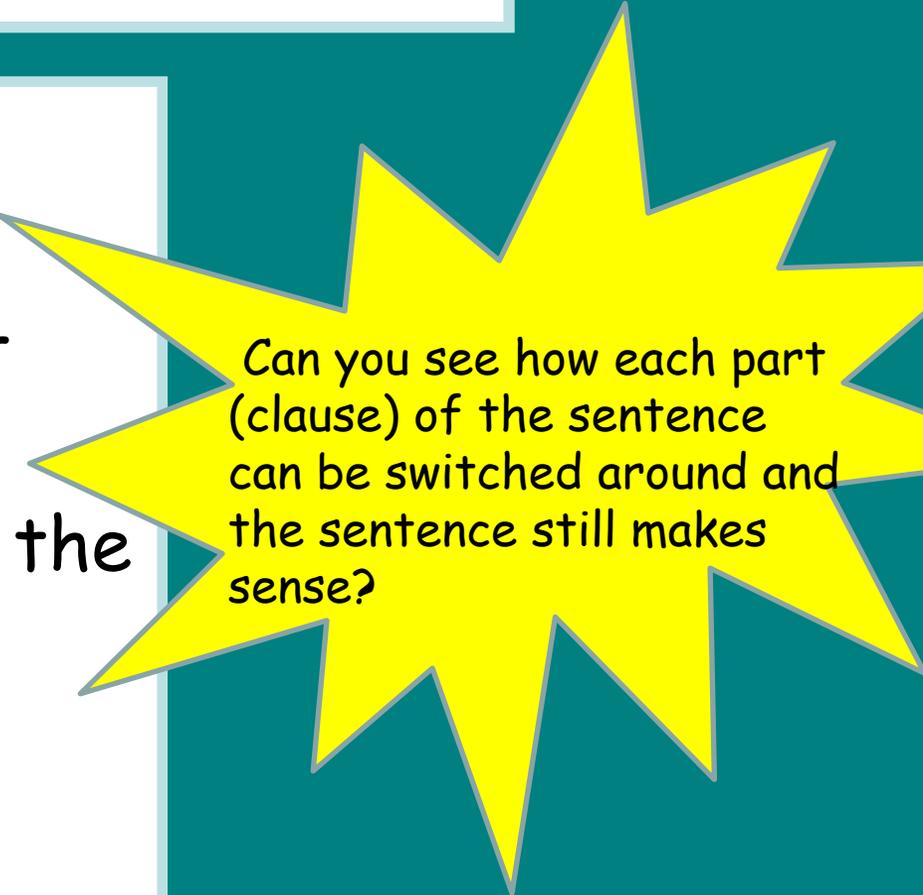
Commas can be used to mark a short pause in a sentence

For example:

If they are not here by seven, we shall start without them.

When he saw the pirate ship on the horizon, the captain gave the alarm.

She called as loudly as she could, but no-one could hear her.



Can you see how each part (clause) of the sentence can be switched around and the sentence still makes sense?

Try these...

- As you may already know half term is fast approaching.
- In celebration of the Bloomsbury 'Harry Potter Book Night' event the English department dressed up as 'Harry Potter' characters.
- Despite it being past my bedtime I had to read another chapter.
- I know I've only just eaten a McDonald's but I could really eat a KFC right now.

Answers

- As you may already know, half term is fast approaching.
- In celebration of the Bloomsbury 'Harry Potter Book Night' event, the English department dressed up as 'Harry Potter' characters.
- Despite it being past my bedtime, I had to read another chapter.
- I know I've only just eaten a McDonald's, but I could really eat a KFC right now.

Here's a mix of all the types of commas we've looked at so far...

1. My estate is to be split equally among my son daughter and wife.
2. Yes Doctor I will.
3. I am as you have probably noticed very uncomfortable about this.
4. I would therefore like a response.
5. Let me know now if you need to leave early.
6. You may be required to bring a sleeping bag pans warm clothing and a torch.
7. I can go can't I?
8. I have painted the entire house but he is still working on sanding the doors.
9. On February 14th many couples exchanges gifts.

Progress Check:

- ✓ Using commas in lists
- ✓ Using commas to separate terms of address
- ✓ Using commas to separate asides or additions
- ✓ Using commas to mark a pause in a sentence

Here's a mix of all the types of commas we've looked at so far...

1. My estate is to be split equally among my son, daughter and wife.
2. Yes Doctor, I will.
3. I am, as you have probably noticed, very uncomfortable about this.
4. I would, therefore, like a response.
5. Let me know now, if you need to leave early.
6. You may be required to bring a sleeping bag, pans, warm clothing and a torch.
7. I can go, can't I?
8. I have painted the entire house, but he is still working on sanding the doors.
9. On February 14th, many couples exchanges gifts.

Progress Check:

- ✓ Using commas in lists
- ✓ Using commas to separate terms of address
- ✓ Using commas to separate asides or additions
- ✓ Using commas to mark a pause in a sentence