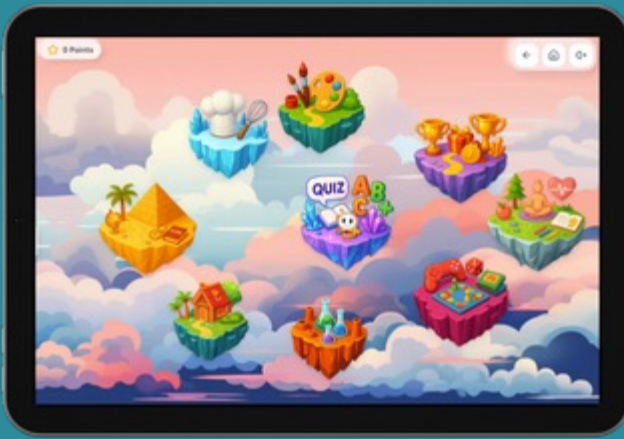


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Commas and Clauses — Year 6

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COMMA COMPASS



LISTS

We packed maps, torches, snacks and water.

DIRECT ADDRESS

"Thanks for helping, Ava."



OPENING ELEMENT

After the bell rang, the hall emptied.



JOINED CLAUSES

The path was steep, but we kept climbing.



EXTRA INFORMATION

The library, which opened in 1928, closes at five.



DIALOGUE

"I am ready," Noor said.



Ask: What boundary does this comma mark?



CLAUSE BOUNDARY CARDS

The drone
hovered above
the field.



because the
batteries
were flat



Before
sunrise



The map was old,
but it was
accurate.



Our team
solved the
final clue.



although the
track was
slippery



Across the
empty oval



We packed early,
so we caught
the train.



The crowd
waited by
the gate.



when the
signal
changed



Without any
warning



The wind eased,
and the crew
raised the sail.



Ava checked
the weather
report.



while the
audience
applauded



After the
final rehearsal



I wanted to stay,
yet the museum
was closing.



CLAUSE BOUNDARY SORT



INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

A complete idea that can stand alone.



DEPENDENT CLAUSE

An incomplete idea beginning with a subordinating word.



INTRODUCTORY PHRASE

An opening group of words without its own subject-verb pair.



CONJUNCTION JOIN

Two independent clauses joined by a comma and a conjunction.



CHALLENGE: Choose two cards and combine them. Explain your comma decision.



COMMA CODEBREAKER



MISSION BRIEF

Four stations protect a four-digit code.

1. Visit ALPHA, BRAVO, CHARLIE and DELTA in order.
2. Add every missing comma on the four cards at each station.
3. Count the commas you added. That total is the station digit.
4. Record all four digits below and make one decision to your team.

TEAM NAME: _____

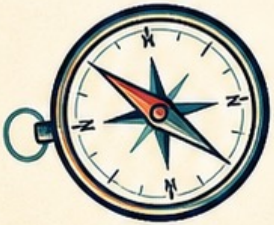
ALPHA	BRAVO	CHARLIE	DELTA



FINAL CODE: _____



CHECKPOINT: Explain one comma decision: _____



STATION ALPHA



Add every missing comma to the sentences. Count the commas you add across all four cards.

A1

After the final whistle the
players shook hands.

A2

The lantern which belonged to
my grandfather still works.

A3

We checked the map but
the trail had changed.

A4

Please bring the compass Aria.



STATION BRAVO ,



Add every missing comma. Count the commas you add across all four cards.

B1

However the schedule may change

B2

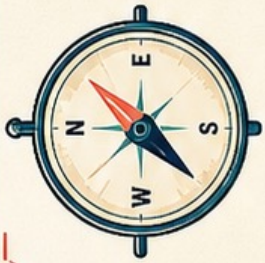
The science centre which opened
last year hosts evening talks.

B3

The rain eased so the match resumed.

B4

Yordan the results are final.



STATION CHARLIE



Add every missing comma to count the commas you add across all four cards.

C1

Before sunrise while the street
were quiet the crew loaded the van

C2

Our captain who joined the club
in May designed the drill.

C3

The wind rose and the crew
lowered the sail.

C4

I packed pencils rulers erasers
and paper.



STATION DELTA



Add every missing comma. Count the commas you add across all four cards.

D1



At the end of the concert the audience stood

D2



The library which closes at five is beside the station.

D3



I called twice yet nobody answered.

D4



Nadia and I packed the tents and checked the ropes.



COMMA CODEBREAKER — TEACHER KEY



9

ALPHA — DIGIT 3

A1

After the final whistle, the players shook hands.

A2

The lantern, which belonged to my grandfather, still works.

A3

We checked the map, but the trail had changed.

A4

Please bring the compass, Aria.

9

BRAVO — DIGIT 6

B1

However, the schedule may change.

B2

The science centre, which opened last year, hosts evening talks.

B3

The rain eased, so the match resumed.

B4

Yes, Jordan, the results are final.

9

CHARLIE — DIGIT 7

C1

Before sunrise, while the streets were quiet, the crew loaded the van.

C2

Our captain, who joined the club in May, designed the drill.

C3

The wind rose, and the crew lowered the sail.

C4

I packed pencils, rulers, erasers and paper.

9

DELTA — DIGIT 4

D1

At the end of the concert, the audience stood.

D2

The library, which closes at five, is beside the station.

D3

He gave no answer, yet nobody answered.

D4

Natalia packed the tents and checked the ropes. No comma required.



FINAL CODE: 5 6 7 4



Name: _____

Date: _____

COMMA FOUNDATIONS

Add commas and any dialogue punctuation needed.
Rewrite each sentence correctly.

A LISTS AND SERIES



1. The toolkit contained rope tape scissors and gloves.

2. We toured Perth Adelaide Hobart and Darwin.

3. Rosa packed sandwiches fruit water and a map.

B DIRECT ADDRESS



4. Noah please close the gate.

5. Could you check this Mia?

6. Thank you teacher for staying focused.

C DIALOGUE



7. "The path is safe" Priya said.

8. Tom replied "We should wait."

9. "Are the bags packed" asked Elena.

D PLACES AND OPENINGS



10. After lunch on 14 June 2027 the class travelled to Cairns Queensland.

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

COMMA FOUNDATIONS

Add commas and any dialogue punctuation needed.
Rewrite each sentence correctly.

A LISTS AND SERIES



1. The toolkit contained rope tape scissors and gloves.
The toolkit contained rope, tape, scissors and gloves.

2. We toured Perth Adelaide Hobart and Darwin.
We toured Perth, Adelaide, Hobart and Darwin.

3. Rosa packed sandwiches fruit water and a map.
Rosa packed sandwiches, fruit, water and a map.

B DIRECT ADDRESS



4. Noah please close the gate.
Noah, please close the gate.

5. Could you check this Mia?
Could you check this, Mia?

6. Thank you team for staying focused.
Thank you, team, for staying focused.

C DIALOGUE



7. "The path is safe" Priya said.
"The path is safe," Priya said.

8. Tom replied "We should wait."
Tom replied, "We should wait."

9. "Are the bags packed" asked Elena.
"Are the bags packed?" asked Elena.

D PLACES AND OPENINGS



10. After lunch on 14 June 2027 the class travelled to Cairns Queensland.
After lunch on 14 June 2027, the class travelled to Cairns, Queensland.

Name: _____

Date: _____

COMPOUND SENTENCE COMMAS

Clause
(complete
thought)



Conjunction
and / but /
yet / or / so



Clause
(complete
thought)

,



A CLAUSE OR PREDICATE?

Write **C** if the conjunction joins two complete clauses. Write **P** if it joins a compound predicate.
Add a comma only when it is required.

1. Lena checked the forecast and packed an umbrella. TYPE: _____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
2. The forecast predicted sunshine but dark clouds gathered. TYPE: _____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
3. I wanted to finish the novel yet the library was closing. TYPE: _____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
4. The dog barked and chased the ball. TYPE: _____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
5. We could take the ferry or we could drive around the bay. TYPE: _____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
6. The lights flickered but stayed on. TYPE: _____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
7. Sam rehearsed the speech so he felt prepared. TYPE: _____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
8. The class listened and took careful notes. TYPE: _____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

B REPAIR THE COMMA SPLICE

Rewrite each sentence using a full stop, a semicolon, or a comma plus a conjunction.

9. The timer sounded, everyone put down their pencils.

10. The trail was flooded, we chose another route.

11. The evidence was incomplete, the team kept investigating.

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

COMPOUND SENTENCE COMMAS

Clause
(complete
thought)



Conjunction
and / but /
yet / or / so



Clause
(complete
thought)

,



A CLAUSE OR PREDICATE?

Write **C** if the conjunction joins two complete clauses. Write **P** if it joins a compound predicate. Add a comma only when it is required.

1. Lena checked the forecast and packed an umbrella. TYPE: P
CORRECT SENTENCE: Lena checked the forecast and packed an umbrella.
2. The forecast predicted sunshine but dark clouds gathered. TYPE: C
CORRECT SENTENCE: The forecast predicted sunshine, but dark clouds gathered.
3. I wanted to finish the novel yet the library was closing. TYPE: C
CORRECT SENTENCE: I wanted to finish the novel, yet the library was closing.
4. The dog barked and chased the ball. TYPE: P
CORRECT SENTENCE: The dog barked and chased the ball.
5. We could take the ferry or we could drive around the bay. TYPE: C
CORRECT SENTENCE: We could take the ferry, or we could drive around the bay.
6. The lights flickered but stayed on. TYPE: P
CORRECT SENTENCE: The lights flickered but stayed on.
7. Sam rehearsed the speech so he felt prepared. TYPE: C
CORRECT SENTENCE: Sam rehearsed the speech, so he felt prepared.
8. The class listened and took careful notes. TYPE: P
CORRECT SENTENCE: The class listened and took careful notes.

B REPAIR THE COMMA SPLICE

Rewrite each sentence using a full stop, a semicolon, or a comma plus a conjunction.

9. The timer sounded, everyone put down their pencils.
The timer sounded, so everyone put down their pencils.
10. The trail was flooded, we chose another route.
The trail was flooded, so we chose another route.
11. The evidence was incomplete, the team kept investigating.
The evidence was incomplete, but the team kept investigating.

Name: _____

Date: _____



INTRODUCTORY ELEMENTS

A FIND THE OPENING BOUNDARY

Write **W** for introductory word, **P** for phrase, **C** for dependent clause or **N** for no opening boundary.
Rewrite each sentence, adding a comma only when required.



1. However the route is still open.

TYPE: _____

CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

2. During the final rehearsal the lights flickered.

TYPE: _____

CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

3. Although the evidence seemed clear the jury listened carefully.

TYPE: _____

CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

4. Near the library entrance a crowd had formed.

TYPE: _____

CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

5. Yes we can begin now.

TYPE: _____

CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

6. If the weather improves we will use the oval.

TYPE: _____

CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

7. To everyone's surprise the model worked.

TYPE: _____

CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

8. We will use the oval if the weather improves.

TYPE: _____

CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

B TRANSFORM THE ORDER

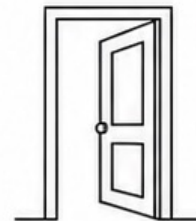


9. Rewrite so the dependent clause comes first:
We will leave when the bus arrives.

10. Rewrite so the time phrase comes first:
The visitors returned to the gallery after lunch.

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____



INTRODUCTORY ELEMENTS

A FIND THE OPENING BOUNDARY

Write **W** for introductory word, **P** for phrase, **C** for dependent clause or **N** for no opening boundary.
Rewrite each sentence, adding a comma only when required.



1. However the route is still open.

TYPE: W

CORRECT SENTENCE: However, the route is still open.

2. During the final rehearsal the lights flickered.

TYPE: P

CORRECT SENTENCE: During the final rehearsal, the lights flickered.

3. Although the evidence seemed clear the jury listened carefully.

TYPE: C

CORRECT SENTENCE: Although the evidence seemed clear, the jury listened carefully.

4. Near the library entrance a crowd had formed.

TYPE: P

CORRECT SENTENCE: Near the library entrance, a crowd had formed.

5. Yes we can begin now.

TYPE: W

CORRECT SENTENCE: Yes, we can begin now.

6. If the weather improves we will use the oval.

TYPE: C

CORRECT SENTENCE: If the weather improves, we will use the oval.

7. To everyone's surprise the model worked.

TYPE: P

CORRECT SENTENCE: To everyone's surprise, the model worked.

8. We will use the oval if the weather improves.

TYPE: N

CORRECT SENTENCE: We will use the oval if the weather improves.

B TRANSFORM THE ORDER



9. Rewrite so the dependent clause comes first:

We will leave when the bus arrives.

When the bus arrives, we will leave.

10. Rewrite so the time phrase comes first:

The visitors returned to the gallery after lunch.

After lunch, the visitors returned to the gallery.

Name: _____

Date: _____



EMBEDDED CLAUSES



A FRAME THE EXTRA INFORMATION

Rewrite each sentence with a matched pair of commas around the non-essential clause.

1. Our principal who cycles to school opened the assembly.

2. The new bridge which spans the creek opened today.

3. Lake Wattle where we camped last summer is closed.

4. My tablet which has a cracked screen still works.

B COMBINE THE IDEAS

Combine each pair into one sentence. Use the word in brackets to add a non-essential embedded clause with a matched pair of commas.

5. Asha designed the poster. Asha runs the art club. (who)

6. The observatory has reopened. It sits on the eastern ridge. (which)

7. Riverside Park hosts weekend markets. We practised there. (where)

8. Mr Chen announced the results. Mr Chen judged the debate. (who)

CHECK: Can the embedded clause be removed without changing who or what is meant?



EMBEDDED CLAUSES



A FRAME THE EXTRA INFORMATION

Rewrite each sentence with a matched pair of commas around the non-essential clause.

1. Our principal who cycles to school opened the assembly.

Our principal, who cycles to school, opened the assembly.

2. The new bridge which spans the creek opened today.

The new bridge, which spans the creek, opened today.

3. Lake Wattle where we camped last summer is closed.

Lake Wattle, where we camped last summer, is closed.

4. My tablet which has a cracked screen still works.

My tablet, which has a cracked screen, still works.

B COMBINE THE IDEAS

Combine each pair into one sentence. Use the word in brackets to add a non-essential embedded clause with a matched pair of commas.

5. Asha designed the poster. Asha leads the art club. (who)

Asha, who leads the art club, designed the poster.

6. The observatory has reopened. It sits on the eastern ridge. (which)

The observatory, which sits on the eastern ridge, has reopened.

7. Riverside Park hosts weekend markets. We practised there. (where)

Riverside Park, where we practised, hosts weekend markets.

8. Mr Chen announced the results. Mr Chen judged the debate. (who)

Mr Chen, who judged the debate, announced the results.

CHECK: Can the embedded clause be removed without changing who or what is meant?

Name: _____

Date: _____

ESSENTIAL OR EXTRA?



A DOES THE CLAUSE IDENTIFY OR ADD?



Write **E** if the clause is essential for identifying the noun. Write **X** if it adds extra information. Rewrite each sentence, adding a matched pair of commas only for **X**.

1. Students who submit by Friday receive feedback. E OR X: ____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
2. Ms Patel's class which finishes at three o'clock packed its bags. E OR X: ____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
3. The cyclist who wore the yellow jersey won the spring triathlon. E OR X: ____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
4. Priya who owns the bakery delivers bread each morning. E OR X: ____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
5. Books that include an index are easier to navigate. E OR X: ____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
6. This atlas which includes a detailed index is easy to navigate. E OR X: ____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
7. The trail that crosses the wetland is closed. E OR X: ____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____
8. Merri Trail which crosses the wetland is closed. E OR X: ____
CORRECT SENTENCE: _____



B CONTEXT DECIDES

Punctuate the same wording to match each context.

9. You have one sister. My sister Maya is a paramedic.

10. You have three sisters. My sister Maya is a paramedic.



TEST: Remove the middle information. If the reader can still identify the noun, it is extra.

Name: _____

ANSWERS

Date: _____

ESSENTIAL OR EXTRA?



A DOES THE CLAUSE IDENTIFY OR ADD?



Write **E** if the clause is essential for identifying the noun. Write **X** if it adds extra information. Rewrite each sentence, adding a matched pair of commas only for **X**.

1. Students who submit by Friday receive feedback. E OR X: E
CORRECT SENTENCE: Students who submit by Friday receive feedback.
2. Ms Patel's class which finishes at three o'clock packed its bags. E OR X: X
CORRECT SENTENCE: Ms Patel's class, which finishes at three o'clock, packed its bags.
3. The cyclist who wore the yellow jersey won the sprint. E OR X: E
CORRECT SENTENCE: The cyclist who wore the yellow jersey won the sprint.
4. Priya who owns the bakery delivers bread each morning. E OR X: X
CORRECT SENTENCE: Priya, who owns the bakery, delivers bread each morning.
5. Books that include an index are easier to navigate. E OR X: E
CORRECT SENTENCE: Books that include an index are easier to navigate.
6. This atlas which includes a detailed index is easy to navigate. E OR X: X
CORRECT SENTENCE: This atlas, which includes a detailed index, is easy to navigate.
7. The trail that crosses the wetland is closed. E OR X: E
CORRECT SENTENCE: The trail that crosses the wetland is closed.
8. Merri Trail which crosses the wetland is closed. E OR X: X
CORRECT SENTENCE: Merri Trail, which crosses the wetland, is closed.



B CONTEXT DECIDES

Punctuate the same wording to match each context.

9. You have one sister. My sister Maya is a paramedic.
My sister, Maya, is a paramedic.
10. You have three sisters. My sister Maya is a paramedic.
My sister Maya is a paramedic.



TEST: Remove the middle information. If the reader can still identify the noun, it is extra.

Name: _____

Date: _____



COMMA CLINIC

School News Proofreading



For each sentence, write **KEEP**, **FIX** or **SPLICE**. Then rewrite it correctly.

1. Last Friday our school garden which opened in 2019 welcomed volunteers.

DIAGNOSIS: _____ CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

2. Before the first group arrived students checked the tools and watered the seedlings.

DIAGNOSIS: _____ CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

3. The sky was clear, the forecast warned of strong winds.

DIAGNOSIS: _____ CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

4. Ms Reed said "Please stack the pots beside the shed."

DIAGNOSIS: _____ CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

5. The team collected gloves trowels and twine.

DIAGNOSIS: _____ CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

6. The volunteers worked quickly and finished before noon.

DIAGNOSIS: _____ CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

7. Arlo please record the seedling count.

DIAGNOSIS: _____ CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

8. The rain began but the final group completed the path.

DIAGNOSIS: _____ CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

9. The path was slippery, so everyone moved carefully.

DIAGNOSIS: _____ CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

10. After lunch the organisers thanked the volunteers and locked the gate.

DIAGNOSIS: _____ CORRECT SENTENCE: _____

EDITOR'S CHECK: Every comma must mark a genuine boundary. A comma cannot join two sentences.

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____



COMMA CLINIC

School News Proofreading



For each sentence, write **KEEP**, **FIX** or **SPLICE**. Then rewrite it correctly.

1. Last Friday our school garden which opened in 2019 welcomed volunteers.

DIAGNOSIS: **FIX**

CORRECT SENTENCE: **Last Friday, our school garden, which opened in 2019, welcomed volunteers.**

2. Before the first group arrived students checked the tools and watered the seedlings.

DIAGNOSIS: **FIX**

CORRECT SENTENCE: **Before the first group arrived, students checked the tools and watered the seedlings.**

3. The sky was clear, the forecast warned of strong winds.

DIAGNOSIS: **SPLICE**

CORRECT SENTENCE: **The sky was clear but the forecast warned of strong winds.**

4. Ms Reed said "Please stack the pots beside the shed."

DIAGNOSIS: **FIX**

CORRECT SENTENCE: **Ms Reed said, "Please stack the pots beside the shed."**

5. The team collected gloves, trowels, buckets and twine.

DIAGNOSIS: **FIX**

CORRECT SENTENCE: **The team collected gloves, trowels, buckets and twine.**

6. The volunteers, worked quietly and finished before noon.

DIAGNOSIS: **FIX**

CORRECT SENTENCE: **The volunteers worked quietly and finished before noon.**

7. Arlo please record the seedling count.

DIAGNOSIS: **FIX**

CORRECT SENTENCE: **Arlo, please record the seedling count.**

8. The rain began but the final group completed the path.

DIAGNOSIS: **FIX**

CORRECT SENTENCE: **The rain began, but the final group completed the path.**

9. The path was slippery, so everyone moved carefully.

DIAGNOSIS: **KEEP**

CORRECT SENTENCE: **The path was slippery, so everyone moved carefully.**

10. After lunch the organisers thanked the volunteers and locked the gate.

DIAGNOSIS: **FIX**

CORRECT SENTENCE: **After lunch, the organisers thanked the volunteers and locked the gate.**

EDITOR'S CHECK: Every comma must mark a genuine boundary. A comma cannot join two sentences.

Name: _____

Date: _____

WRITING WITH CONTROL



A SENTENCE WORKSHOP

Combine each pair in two different ways. Version 1 must use a comma plus a coordinating conjunction. Version 2 must use an introductory dependent clause or a non-essential embedded clause.

1. The wind became stronger. The crew lowered the sail.

VERSION 1: _____

VERSION 2: _____

2. The museum was closing. We completed the final exhibit.

VERSION 1: _____

VERSION 2: _____

3. Maya delivered the speech. She had practised all week.

VERSION 1: _____

VERSION 2: _____

B PARAGRAPH CHALLENGE

Choose one scenario: an unexpected announcement; a difficult decision; or a team solving a problem. Write a focused paragraph (5–7 sentences). Use commas deliberately, not just where you pause.

C SELF-EDIT

- ☐ I marked every clause boundary.
- ☐ I used a comma after an opening element.
- ☐ I used a comma before a conjunction only between complete clauses.
- ☐ I framed non-essential information with two commas.
- ☐ I checked lists and direct address.
- ☐ I removed every comma splice.



COMMA DECISIONS



ASSESSMENT — PAGE 1

A CHOOSE THE CORRECT VERSION

[5 marks]

Circle A or B. One mark each.

1. A Although the gate was locked we found another entrance.
B Although the gate was locked, we found another entrance.
2. A The old lighthouse, which opened in 1912, still operates.
B The old lighthouse which opened in 1912 still operates.
3. A The batteries were charged but the device would not start.
B The batteries were charged, but the device would not start.
4. A The dog barked and chased the ball.
B The dog barked, and chased the ball.
5. A Please take your seat, Jordan.
B Please take your seat Jordan.

☐☐☐☐☐

B REWRITE WITH CORRECT COMMAS

[10 marks]

Rewrite each sentence. Add commas only where required.

6. Before the film began the upper clerk checked every row. [1]

7. The solar car which won the design award completed every lap. [2]

8. The forecast looked clear but dark clouds gathered. [2]

9. Please check the final page Mateo. [2]

10. The club purchased banners paint brushes tape string and clips. [3]

COMMA DECISIONS

ASSESSMENT — PAGE 2

A EDIT THE FIELD REPORT [8 marks]



Rewrite the report correctly. Add, remove or replace punctuation and add a conjunction where needed.

Before sunrise our team met at the jetty. The guide who had checked the forecast handed out maps torches water and radios. The wind rose but the boat remained steady. Liam please secure the final rope. The engine started, everyone cheered.

B EXPLAIN YOUR DECISIONS [4 marks]



11. Why is a comma needed after "Before sunrise"? [2]

12. Why are two commas needed around "who had checked the forecast"? [2]

C WRITE WITH CONTROL [3 marks]



13. Write one original sentence containing an introductory dependent clause, a main clause and a non-essential embedded clause. Punctuate every boundary correctly. [3]



COMMA DECISIONS



ASSESSMENT — PAGE 1

A CHOOSE THE CORRECT VERSION

[5 marks]

Circle A or B. One mark each.

1. **A** Although the gate was locked we found another entrance.
B Although the gate was locked, we found another entrance.
2. **A** The old lighthouse, which opened in 1912, still operates.
B The old lighthouse which opened in 1912 still operates.
3. **A** The batteries were charged but the device would not start.
B The batteries were charged, but the device would not start.
4. **A** The dog barked and chased the ball.
B The dog barked, and chased the ball.
5. **A** Please take your seat, Jordan.
B Please take your seat Jordan.

☐☐☐☐☐

B REWRITE WITH CORRECT COMMAS

[10 marks]

Rewrite each sentence. Add commas only where required.

6. Before the film began the user checked every row. [1]
Before the film began, the user checked every row.
7. The solar car which won the design award completed every lap. [2]
The solar car, which won the design award, completed every lap.
8. The forecast looked clear but dark clouds gathered. [2]
The forecast looked clear, but dark clouds gathered.
9. Please check the final page Mateo. [2]
Please check the final page, Mateo.
10. The club purchased banners paint brushes tape string and clips. [3]
The club purchased banners, paint brushes, tape, string and clips.

COMMA DECISIONS

ASSESSMENT — PAGE 2

A EDIT THE FIELD REPORT [8 marks]



Rewrite the report correctly. Add, remove or replace punctuation and add a conjunction where needed.

Before sunrise our team met at the jetty. The guide who had checked the forecast handed out maps torches water and radios. The wind rose but the boat remained steady. Liam please secure the final rope. The engine started, everyone cheered.

Before sunrise, our team met at the jetty. The guide, who had checked the forecast, handed out maps, torches, water and radios. The wind rose, but the boat remained steady. Liam, please secure the final rope. The engine started, and everyone cheered.

B EXPLAIN YOUR DECISIONS [4 marks]



11. Why is a comma needed after "Before sunrise"? [2]

11. It separates the introductory phrase from the main clause.

12. Why are two commas needed around "who had checked the forecast"? [2]

12. The clause adds non-essential information, so it is framed by a matched pair.

C WRITE WITH CONTROL [3 marks]



13. Write one original sentence containing an introductory dependent clause, a main clause and a non-essential embedded clause. Punctuate every boundary correctly. [3]

13. Although the forecast was uncertain, our captain, who had studied the charts, approved the voyage.



COMMAS AND CLAUSES RUBRIC



Student: _____

Date: _____

Task: _____

CRITERION	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
CLAUSE IDENTIFICATION	Cannot yet distinguish complete and dependent ideas.	Identifies some clauses with support.	Identifies independent and dependent clauses accurately.	Explains how clauses combine in a sentence.	Analyses complex clause patterns precisely.
BOUNDARY PUNCTUATION	Commas are often missing or random; comma splices are common.	Uses commas in familiar patterns with some errors.	Uses commas correctly at main boundaries and avoids most splices.	Makes consistent, purposeful choices and repairs splices.	Controls varied structures for precise meaning and rhythm.
ESSENTIAL OR EXTRA INFORMATION	Does not yet distinguish essential from extra information.	Distinguishes the two with prompts.	Usually distinguishes between and uses matching commas.	Explains how punctuation changes meaning.	Manipulates clause information for clarity and emphasis.
EDITING AND JUSTIFICATION	Rarely locates comma errors.	Finds some errors and gives limited explanations.	Corrects most errors and gives a grammatical reason.	Edits accurately and justifies decisions with evidence.	Evaluates alternatives and defends the best choice.
APPLICATION IN ORIGINAL WRITING	Shows limited sentence control.	Uses some correct comma patterns in simple sentences.	Writes varied sentences with generally accurate commas.	Uses a deliberate range of comma structures.	Writes fluently; punctuation strengthens meaning.

OVERALL LEVEL: _____

FEEDBACK: _____

NEXT STEP: _____

Commas and clauses

PREVIEW



Commas and Clauses Quiz

