



# Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

## Commas to Indicate Parenthesis



# Commas to Indicate Parenthesis

# Aim

- I can use commas to indicate parenthesis.

# Success Criteria

- I can explain the difference between the main clause and a subordinate clause.
- I can explain that commas are used to show extra detail that has been added to a sentence.
- I can identify where commas belong.
- I can create my own sentences which use commas for parenthesis.

# Verb Prefixes Revision

**Introductory Activity**

**Independent Focused Activity**

**Review Activity**

**Consolidation Activity**

**Assessment**



# Introductory Activity



# Simple and Complex Sentences



When you include different punctuation in your writing you must always keep in mind that you are trying to get your points, your message and your story across to the reader. Every choice you make in terms of words, sentences, arrangement, punctuation, has an effect — good, bad, or mediocre — on the reader. Try to plan your choices for the best effect.

Today we are going to focus on using paired commas. To fully understand how to include paired commas we must first understand simple and complex sentences.

# Simple Sentences



A simple sentence is made of one main clause = **subject** + **verb**.

A simple sentence is usually straightforward and it must make sense on its own, as it expresses a complete thought.

A simple sentence can have phrases, adjectives, and adverbs, but no subordinate clauses.

The **students** **were** sleepy.



The **helicopter** **frightened** the dogs.



# Complex Sentences



A complex sentence has at least:

- One subordinate clause.
- A main clause.

**Subordinate Clauses:**

- Must have their own subject and verb.
- Do not make sense on their own.
- Can come before, after, or inside of the main clause.

**Main Clauses:**

The more important information should always go in the main clause because the main clause always “carries” more emphasis than the subordinate clause.

The **students were** sleepy because **they** had been **partying** all night.



Can you identify the **main clause**?

**clause?**



The **helicopter** frightened the dogs so **they barked** loudly.

Can you identify the **main clause**?

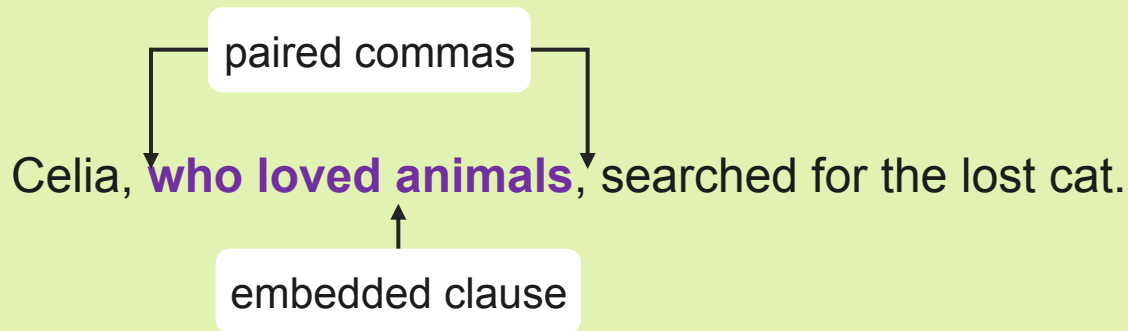
**clause?**

# Embedded Clauses



The word embedded means 'within'.

An embedded clause is another way of using a subordinate clause – by dropping it into the middle of a sentence. This time you need two commas, one either side of the clause.



The embedded clause is a **parenthesis**.

Parenthesis = a word or phrase inserted as an explanation or afterthought into a passage which is grammatically complete (the sentence makes sense) without it.

# Simple and Complex Sentences



**Look**

at the following sentences.

**Write**

the sentence onto your whiteboard.

**Underline**

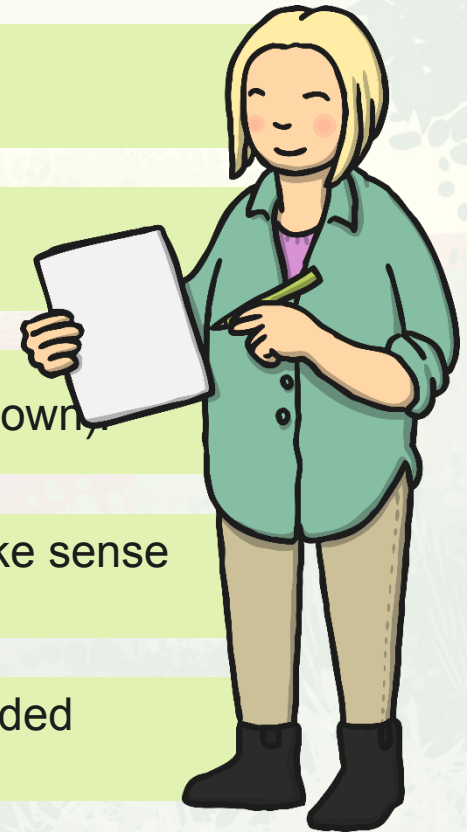
the main clause (makes sense on its own).

**Identify**

the subordinate clause (does not make sense on its own).

**Add**

paired commas to identify the embedded subordinate clause.



# Simple and Complex Sentences



## Sentence 1

The music, which was too loud, gave me a headache.

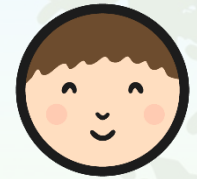
# Simple and Complex Sentences



## Sentence 2

**A young child, who had lost her mum, cried.**

# Simple and Complex Sentences



## Sentence 3

A bus, which was full of passengers, sped down the street.

# Simple and Complex Sentences



## Sentence 4

The loaf of bread, which she bought last week, was  
mouldy.

# Simple and Complex Sentences



## Sentence 5

The singer, dancing and jigging, sang to the audience.

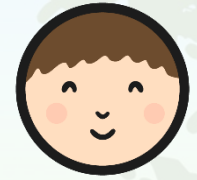
# Simple and Complex Sentences



## Sentence 6

The headteacher, who hated chaos, felt frustrated at  
the noisiness of the children.

# Embedded Clauses



Commas are used before and after embedded clauses (a group of words that includes a subject and a verb). The embedded clauses are put into a sentence to add additional detail for the reader. The embedded clauses do not make sense by themselves. Starting the embedded clause with where, which, who or when is a useful tool to help when first using embedded clauses. When we start the clause in this way we call it a relative clause.

Example:

The spy scanned his surroundings looking for danger.

Is changed to:

The spy, who blended into the crowd, scanned his surroundings looking for danger.

↑  
embedded relative  
cause

↓      ↓  
commas



# Independent Focused Activity

# Where, Which, Who, When



Work on your own to complete the Where, Which, Who, When Activity Sheet

## ★ Where, Which, Who, When

When you first start to use paired commas it can be helpful to start the embedded with the words:

**Where:** The city of New York, where you can see the famous Statue of Liberty, is an amazing to visit.

**Who:** Mrs. Smith, who was the reception teacher, was asked to take the whole-school asse

**Which:** The city of London, which was where they first met, was the place they had cho get married.

**When:** Many years ago, when my parents were young, the Beatles were a very popular ban

**Task:**

- Underline the embedded clauses.
- Add the commas into the correct place.

1. The boy who was only seven could play the piano.
2. The beach which was very crowded was hotter than ever.
3. The ball which was kicked by the goal keeper flew through the air.
4. The music which was too loud gave me a headache.
5. The old lady who was carrying lots of bags waited for a taxi.
6. The bus which was speeding went down the street.

## ★★ Where, Which, Who, When

When you first start to use paired commas it can be helpful to start the embedded with the words:

**Where:** The city of New York, where you can see the famous Statue of Liberty, is an amaz to visit.

**Who:** Mrs. Smith, who was the reception teacher, was asked to take the whole-school as

**Which:** The city of London, which was where they first met, was the place they had o get married.

**When:** Many years ago, when my parents were young, the Beatles were a very popular b

**Task:**

- Write the correct embedded clause to add detail to the main clause.
- Add the commas into the correct places.

Main Clause	Embedded Clause	Main Clause
The boy		could play t
The beach		was hotter t
The ball		flew throug
The music		gave me a h
The old lady		waited for

Embedded Clauses		
which was too loud	which was hard and leather	who was only se
who had lots of bags	which was very crowded.	

## ★★★ Where, Which, Who, When

When you first start to use paired commas it can be helpful to start the embedded clause with the words:

**Where:** The city of New York, where you can see the famous Statue of Liberty, is an amazing place to visit.

**Who:** Mrs. Smith, who was the reception teacher, was asked to take the whole-school assembly.

**Which:** The city of London, which was where they first met, was the place they had chosen to get married.

**When:** Many years ago, when my parents were young, the Beatles were a very popular band.

**Task:**

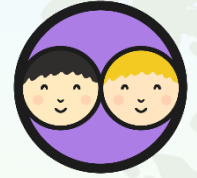
- Re-write each sentence adding in an appropriate embedded clause.
- Use commas to signal the start and end of the embedded clause.

1. The boy could play the piano.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The beach was hotter than ever.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The ball flew through the air.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The music gave me a headache.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The old lady waited for a taxi.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The bus down the street.  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Review Activity

# Clauses Game



Although the information in the embedded clause is not essential to the understanding of the sentence, this does not mean that it is unimportant.

**Discuss this sentence which uses commas:**

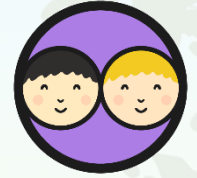
That morning, **which would change his life forever**, the sun rose in the clear blue sky.

Without the embedded clause the power of the sentence is lost. The paired commas used in this way give the reader extra information or detail. Without the information in the embedded clause the sentence will still make perfect sense.

That morning the sun rose in the clear blue sky.

When you lose an embedded clause the remaining sentence should still make sense but some of its power/impact may be lost.

# Clauses Game



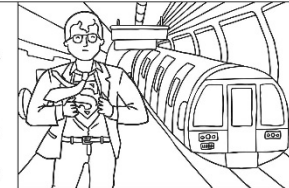
Create your own sentences which use commas to show parenthesis using the Clauses Game Activity Sheet.



## Clauses Game

### Instructions:

- Roll the dice, whatever the number match it up to the number on a simple sentence.
- Repeat to find an embedded clause.
- Embed the clause, in an appropriate place, to make a complex sentence.
- Don't forget to add your commas at the start and end of the embedded clause.



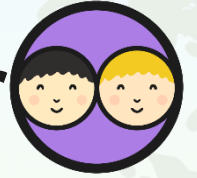
**Example:** The office worker, who was a secret superhero, was catching the tube.

Simple Sentence	Embedded Clause
1. Mr Grimpy was eating his dinner.	1. who was singing 'Cheerleader'
2. The bulldog was chasing the boy	2. who had dribble round his mouth
3. The footballer was kicking the ball	3. who played for Manchester City
4. The toddler was crying	4. who was sucking a dummy
5. The office worker was catching the tube.	5. who was a secret superhero
6. The young prince slept on the bed.	6. who liked to kiss princesses



# Consolidation Activity

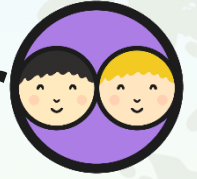
# Commas Punctuation Character



What have you learnt about paired commas? Discuss.



# Commas Punctuation Character



## Commas Punctuation Character

I can use commas to indicate parenthesis.

Fill in the boxes with information you have learned about how to use commas for parenthesis.  
Write some sentences as examples.

The diagram consists of a central box labeled 'Paired Commas' with two speech bubble icons. Four lines radiate from this central box to four empty rectangular boxes arranged in a square pattern around it.



SPaG1 Commas to Indicate Parenthesis

In pairs, fill in the boxes with information you have learned about how to use commas for parenthesis.

Write some sentences as examples.





# Assessment

# Mini Test



Use all of the information you have learned and practised about commas to indicate parenthesis.

Work on your own to complete the Commas to Indicate Parenthesis Mini Test.



Name:  Date:



## Commas to Indicate Parenthesis Mini Test

1. Look at the sentences below.  
Re-write them with commas added into the correct places.



I took my driving test when I was 17 and passed first time!

Jackie had a new haircut which was very short and it suited her.

The children's party which was extremely noisy was great fun!

2. Tick the statements which are correct.



Two commas can mark out extra information inserted into a sentence.

We use commas when information is of (roughly) equal priority to other information in the sentence.

We use paired commas for non-essential information.

3. Tick the sentence which correctly uses commas for parenthesis.



Her mum, who was always well-dressed, drove her daughter to school.

Her mum, who was always well-dressed drove her daughter to school.

Her mum who was always well-dressed, drove her daughter to school.



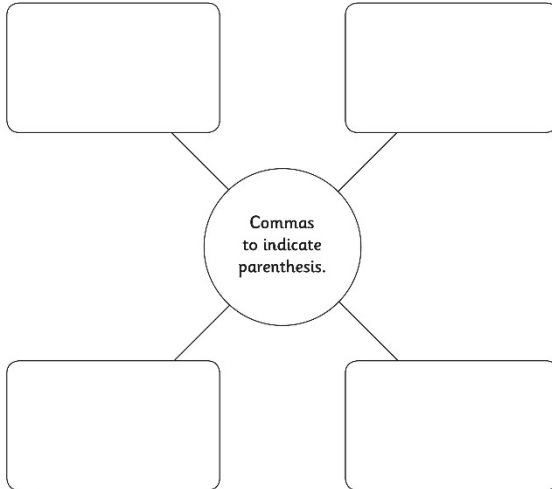
# Application Activity

## Application Activity

\_\_\_\_\_

Create a short presentation about how to use paired commas correctly.

- You may want to include some short activities, a quiz or test.
- Make sure your presentation includes some visual aids and some example sentences.
- Plans your ideas below.



Use all of the information you have learned and practised about commas to indicate parenthesis.



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