Meet the comma: answers and notes

What your child practised: recognising a comma, writing it on the line with a tail, and telling it apart from a full stop (Year 2 punctuation).

Page 1 · Warm up

Each comma: a dot on the line first, then a small tail down and to the left.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Most pages have more full stops than commas, but a page with lists may have more commas.

Page 2 · A. Which are commas?

Tick the **1st, 3rd** and **6th** marks. The 2nd and 5th are full stops (no tail). The 4th is up high, so it is not a comma: it is an apostrophe.

Page 2 · B. On the line

Tick the **left** comma, then the **right** one, then the **left** one.

Page 3 · C. Ring the commas

Sentence 1: one comma (after apples). Sentence 2: no commas. Sentence 3: two commas (after ducks and after swans). **3 commas** in all.

Page 3 · D. Trace and write

Check each comma sits on the line with its tail dipping below it, not floating above.

Challenge: No. A comma has a **tail** that dips below the line; a full stop is only a dot. They do different jobs too: a full stop ends a sentence, and a comma comes in the middle, for example between the things in a list.

Watch out for

- **Mixing up commas and full stops.** Ask "Has it got a tail?" A full stop has none.
- **Commas floating up high**, like an apostrophe. Point to the line: "A comma sits down here, like a full stop."
- **Very big commas.** A comma is small: about the size of a full stop, plus a short tail.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Air commas:** draw a dot and a tail in the air, then on your child's palm with a finger.
- **Comma or full stop?** At bedtime, point to marks in the story and let your child say which it is.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Commas to separate items in a list, puts commas to work between the things in a list.