Name _____ Date _____

Meet the comma

A comma is a small mark with a tail. It sits on the line.

1 Learn



A comma looks like a **full stop with a little tail**. It sits **on the line**, just like a full stop. Soon we'll use commas in lists!



full stop
a dot on the line



comma
a dot with a tail, sitting on the line



apostrophe
up high, not on the line

How to write a comma:



1. Make a small dot that sits on the line



2. Flick a little tail down, below the line

jam , ham

3. It goes straight after a word

Flip's tip: comma or full stop? **Look for the tail!** A full stop is just a dot. A comma has a tail that dips below the line.

Warm up: trace the commas. Dot first, then the tail.



Grown-ups: read Flip's words aloud and point to each mark in the blue box. Ask "Where does it sit?" and "Has it got a tail?"

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Comma hunt

You need: a favourite book, a food box or a leaflet, and a pencil.

1. Pick one page of the book, or the back of a box.
2. Hunt for small marks on the line. For each one, ask: **is it a full stop or a comma?** Look for the tail.
3. Make a tally mark in the table for each one you find.
4. Which did you find more of? Copy some words with a comma.

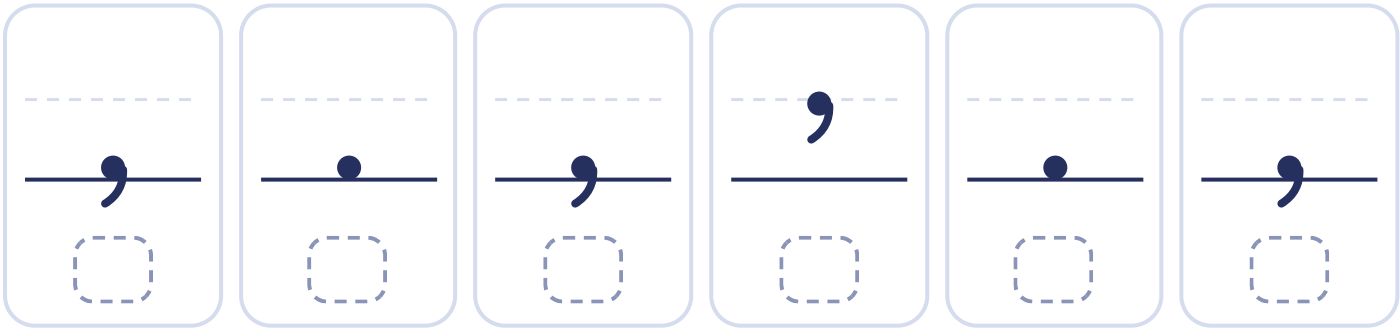
Where we looked	Commas (,)	Full stops (.)

Words with a comma: _____

Grown-ups: commas in stories are used in other ways too. Today you're just spotting the shape.

3 Practise

A. Which marks are **commas**? Tick them.



B. A comma sits **on the line**. Tick the comma in the right place.



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C. Draw a ring round every **comma**. Then write how many you found.

1. I like apples, pears and plums.
2. Sam has a big black cat.
3. We saw ducks, swans, geese and a heron.

Commas: ☐

D. Trace the commas. Then write your own commas on the line below.

,

Challenge

Leo says, "A comma is just a full stop with a wobble." Is he right? What makes a comma different from a full stop?

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ spot a comma
- ☐ write a comma on the line with a little tail
- ☐ tell a comma from a full stop