One comma, two meanings: answers

What your child practised: how one comma can change a sentence's meaning, and a comma with the name of the person spoken to (Year 5: commas to clarify meaning).

Page 1 · Warm up

Thank you, Mia: **to** · I will ring Leo later: **about** · Leo, ring me later: **to**

Page 2 · Try it together

draw Leo? Leo is the picture. **draw, Leo?** Asking Leo if he wants to draw.
eat Max? The dog is dinner! **eat, Max?** Asking Max if he wants dinner.

Page 2 · A. Match

Let's film Tom: **Tom is in our video.**
Let's film, Tom: **telling Tom to start filming.**
ready to eat Max: **the dog is dinner.**
ready to eat, Max: **asking Max about dinner.**

Page 3 · B. Add the comma

1. Grace, please… · 2. Well done, Noah! · 3. …a turn, Lily? · 4. **no comma** (about Noah, not to him) · 5. Mum, look…

Page 3 · C. Stop Jack

Stop Jack! Someone else must stop Jack.
Stop, Jack! We are telling Jack himself to stop.

Page 3 · D. Your own pair

Answers will vary, e.g. **Let's cook Dad. / Let's cook, Dad.** Same words, with a comma before the name in the second.

Challenge: No. **I want to go to the park with Ava.** is clear with no commas: his commas split words that belong together. Commas go where the **meaning** needs one. Test: take the comma out. If the meaning stays clear, it isn't needed.

Watch out for

- **No comma before a name** ("Well done Noah!"). Ask, "Are we talking to Noah or about him?"
- **Commas wherever you pause.** A pause can be a clue, but it isn't the rule: check the meaning.
- **Name at the start:** the comma comes after it ("Mum, look!").

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Comma voice:** say a sentence with and without a pause before a name; your child acts out each meaning.
- **To or about?** At tea, notice names: is someone being spoken to, or talked about?
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Commas in lists, keeps each item in a list clear.