

Name:

Date:

10  
total marks

# Using Commas Mini Test

1. Tick the sentences with meanings which could be changed with the addition of a comma.

- a) She found a mouse trap and cheese all in the bucket as planned.
- b) David had said he didn't care.
- c) The weather was horrible all day so they stayed in.
- d) He asked for money and Lego for his birthday.
- e) Don't risk it Grandma.

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4 marks

2. How do commas affect the meaning of these sentences? Explain briefly for each pair.

a) The man dropped the bullet in his mouth.

The man dropped, the bullet in his mouth.

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b) Save him, not kill him.

Save him not, kill him.

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2 marks

total for  
this page

3. Add or remove commas to give these sentences the required meaning.

3 marks

a) Writing, clearly, isn't easy.

Can you add or remove commas in that sentence to make it mean that 'writing so everyone can understand isn't easy'?

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b) The criminal said the judge was an idiot.

Can you add commas in that sentence so it says the criminal is an idiot.

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c) Debbie's heroes are her parents, Spiderman, and Catwoman.

Can you add or remove commas so that the sentence suggests that Debbie's parents *are* Spiderwoman and Catwoman.

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**\*\*END OF TEST\*\***

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| <p><b>1</b> Tick the sentences with meanings which could be changed with the addition of a comma.</p> <p>a) She found a mouse, trap and cheese all in the bucket as planned. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b) David had said, he didn't care. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c) The weather was horrible all day so they stayed in. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d) He asked for money, and Lego for his birthday. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>e) Don't, risk it Grandma. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>                                                                                                                                                                          | 4 marks |
| <p><b>2</b> How do commas affect the meaning of these sentences? Explain briefly for each pair.</p> <p>a) The man dropped the bullet in his mouth.<br/>The man dropped, the bullet in his mouth.<br/><i>In the first sentence, the man drops a bullet in his mouth, in the second he is shot in the mouth and falls down.</i></p> <p>b) Save him, not kill him.<br/>Save him not, kill him.<br/><i>In the first sentence, the instructions is to save the subject of the sentence, in the second sentence the instruction is to kill him!</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                     | 2 marks |
| <p><b>3</b> Add or remove commas to give these sentences the required meaning.</p> <p>a) Writing, clearly, isn't easy.<br/>Can you add or remove commas in this sentence to make it mean 'writing so everyone can understand isn't easy?'<br/><i>Writing clearly isn't easy.</i></p> <p>b) The criminal said the judge was an idiot.<br/>Can you add commas in that sentence so it says the criminal is an idiot.<br/><i>The criminal, said the judge, was an idiot.</i></p> <p>c) Debbie's heroes are her parents, Spiderman, and Catwoman.<br/>Can you add or remove commas so that the sentence suggests that Debbie's parents are Spiderman and Catwoman.<br/><i>Debbie's heroes are her parents, Spiderman and Catwoman.</i></p> | 3 marks |