

# Varied Fluency

## Step 4: Using Commas to Indicate Parenthesis

### National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 5: (5G5.9) [Using brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis](#)

Terminology for pupils:

- English Year 5: (5G5.9) [parenthesis](#)

### Differentiation:

**Developing** Questions to support using commas to demarcate added parenthesis to a single clause sentence.

**Expected** Questions to support using commas to demarcate added parenthesis within single and multi-clause sentences. Commas are also used in lists.

**Greater Depth** Questions to support using commas to demarcate added parenthesis within a multi-clause sentence, where subordinate clauses are also used. Commas are also used in lists and to punctuate adverbials and subordinate clauses.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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## Using Commas to Indicate Parenthesis

1a. Tick the sentence which uses commas for parenthesis accurately.

A. He went to school, eventually, on the bus.

B. He went, to school, eventually on the bus.



VF

## Using Commas to Indicate Parenthesis

1b. Tick the sentence which uses commas for parenthesis accurately.

A. He loves to play, football, with his friends every week.

B. He loves to play football, with his friends, every week.



VF

2a. True or false? The sentence below uses commas correctly to demarcate parenthesis.

She tried, her best most of the time, at school.



VF

2b. True or false? The sentence below uses commas correctly to demarcate parenthesis.

The stars, on the stage were twinkling.



VF

3a. Insert commas in the correct places in the sentence below to demarcate parenthesis.

This book from the library is in terrible condition.



VF

3b. Insert commas in the correct places in the sentence below to demarcate parenthesis.

The flowers from the supermarket lasted for two weeks.



VF

4a. Tick the boxes where commas have been used to demarcate parenthesis in the sentence below.

The old, lonely dog, with white spots,

chewed the bone.



VF

4b. Tick the boxes where commas have been used to demarcate parenthesis in the sentence below.

My red, shiny car, from the garage, got

scratched.



VF

## Using Commas to Indicate Parenthesis

5a. Tick the sentence which uses commas for parenthesis accurately.

A. They had cake, jelly, pizza and sandwiches at the birthday party.

B. We had jelly, which was raspberry flavoured, with our vanilla ice-cream.



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## Using Commas to Indicate Parenthesis

5b. Tick the sentence which uses commas for parenthesis accurately.

A. The neighbours, who are very friendly, have a dog, two cats and a rabbit.

B. The neighbours have a dog, two cats and a rabbit.



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6a. True or false? The sentence below includes commas used correctly to demarcate parenthesis.

We went to the park yesterday, regardless of the weather and played, on the swings.



VF

6b. True or false? The sentence below includes commas used correctly to demarcate parenthesis.

Somehow, we managed to get home despite a flat tyre, before six o'clock.



VF

7a. Insert commas in the correct places in the sentence below to demarcate parenthesis.

We played outside in next door's garden because we were bored in the house.



VF

7b. Insert commas in the correct places in the sentence below to demarcate parenthesis.

The famous opera singer who once had an incredible voice was no longer able to sing.



VF

8a. Tick the boxes where commas have been used to demarcate parenthesis in the sentence below.

The old,  decrepit castle,  which towered over the town,  had been abandoned for as long as I can remember.



VF

8b. Tick the boxes where commas have been used to demarcate parenthesis in the sentence below.

The house,  which has recently become empty,  was always so lovely, bright and welcoming.



VF

## Using Commas to Indicate Parenthesis

9a. Tick the sentence which uses commas for parenthesis accurately.

A. Although the door was unlocked, we couldn't open it.

B. Although the door was open, which was unusual we could not go in.

C. Although the door, which was unlocked, was mended, we still couldn't open it.



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## Using Commas to Indicate Parenthesis

9b. Tick the sentence which uses commas for parenthesis accurately.

A. Whenever the doorbell rings, the lights turn off immediately.

B. Whenever the doorbell rings, the lights, which are multi-coloured, turn off.

C. Whenever the doorbell rings, the bathroom, garage and bedroom lights turn off.



VF

10a. True or false? The sentence below includes commas used correctly to demarcate parenthesis.

Until the bell rings, we are not allowed, to get ready to go home but sometimes, on a Friday we get ready before the bell.



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10b. True or false? The sentence below includes commas used correctly to demarcate parenthesis.

Provided that, our work which is all about fractions is finished, we are allowed to talk to each other in class.



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11a. Insert commas in the correct places in the sentence below to demarcate parenthesis.

In the crowd, there were thousands of people well maybe only two thousand who were carrying large, red balloons.



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11b. Insert commas in the correct places in the sentence below to demarcate parenthesis.

Rather than go for the bus which was so unreliable he accepted the offer of a lift to the cinema with Harry, Ben and Liam.



VF

12a. Tick the boxes where commas have been used to demarcate parenthesis in the sentence below.

We had to go out shopping, for food not clothes, which was boring, dull and tiring.



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12b. Tick the boxes where commas have been used to demarcate parenthesis in the sentence below.

Calmly, the customers left the shopping centre, due to the fire bell, and stood outside.



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**Varied Fluency**  
**Using Commas to Indicate**  
**Parenthesis**

**Developing**

- 1a. **A**
- 2a. **False, the commas should be around the phrase 'most of the time'.**
- 3a. **This book, from the library, is in terrible condition.**
- 4a. **The second and third boxes should be ticked.**

**Expected**

- 5a. **B**
- 6a. **False, the commas should be around the phrase 'regardless of the weather'.**
- 7a. **We played outside, in next door's garden, because we were bored in the house.**
- 8a. **The second and third boxes should be ticked.**

**Greater Depth**

- 9a. **C**
- 10a. **False, the commas should be around the phrase 'on a Friday'.**
- 11a. **In the crowd, there were thousands of people, well maybe only two thousand, who were carrying large, red balloons.**
- 12a. **The first and second boxes should be ticked.**

**Varied Fluency**  
**Using Commas to Indicate**  
**Parenthesis**

**Developing**

- 1b. **B**
- 2b. **False, there should be a comma after stage.**
- 3b. **The flowers, from the supermarket, lasted for two weeks.**
- 4b. **The second and third boxes should be ticked.**

**Expected**

- 5b. **A**
- 6b. **False, the commas should be around the phrase 'despite a flat tyre'.**
- 7b. **The famous opera singer, who once had an incredible voice, was no longer able to sing.**
- 8b. **The first and second boxes should be ticked.**

**Greater Depth**

- 9b. **B**
- 10b. **False, the commas should be around the phrase 'which is all about fractions'.**
- 11b. **Rather than go for the bus, which was so unreliable, he accepted the offer of a lift to the cinema with Harry, Ben and Liam.**
- 12b. **The second and third boxes should be ticked.**