



Read the sentences as an editor and decide if you think commas need to be added. If you decide to add commas, explain your reason for doing so.

Sentence	Explain your reason for adding commas or leaving the sentence as it is.
The rabbit had long, sharp, pointy teeth.	<i>Commas do not change or clarify the meaning in this sentence so there is no correct answer. Commas can be added to provide the reader with mini pauses or left out altogether at the discretion of the author.</i>
As the campers sat around the fire eating, the bear stayed in the bushes.	<i>A comma is needed here to separate the subordinate clause from the main clause and to make it clear that the campers are not eating the bear!</i>
Lucy wanted a biscuit, but she couldn't have one.	<i>In a compound sentence like this, a comma is often used before the conjunction, but it can be written without.</i>
David, who was 10, wore glasses.	<i>Commas are needed here to surround the embedded clause so that the sentence is read correctly.</i>
Hetty dressed, and performed for the packed audience.	<i>The comma in this sentence clarifies the meaning. Without it, it sounds as though Hetty getting dressed is part of the show!</i>
There was lots to do at the fair, including face painting and a raffle.	<i>Although this sentence is correct without a comma, using a comma to signify adding additional information seems to help it read with an extra focus on the individual examples of activity.</i>
While the onions were cooking, soup was bought from the shop.	<i>A comma is needed in this complex sentence to divide the opening subordinate clause from the main clause to avoid confusion – the onions are not cooking soup!</i>
If you have got everything you need, then we are ready to go!	<i>A comma is needed here to separate the opening subordinate clause from the main clause in this complex sentence. There are two places where the comma could go and each of them would contribute a slightly different meaning to the sentence. The second one suggests that it has taken some time to get everything together!</i>
Hanging out the washing is one of the most boring things in the world.	<i>This is just a simple sentence which does not require commas - no ambiguity and no further clarification necessary.</i>
He was cold without his jacket even though the sun was shining.	<i>This sentence doesn't need a comma to clarify meaning.</i>

