

Year 5 grammar Thursday

Comma use

Look at the starter sheet as a quick reminder

1. Label the boxes A, B or C. Convince me of your choices.

A means a comma **should** be used

B means a comma **could** be used

C means a comma **should never** be used.

If you leave your shoes on the floor I
will trip over mum.

Diagram showing boxes for comma placement:

Box 1: Above 'your' (A)
Box 2: Above 'I' (B)
Box 3: Below 'mum.' (C)

The little girl Katie saw a monkey
eating an ice-cream.

Diagram showing boxes for comma placement:

Box 1: Above 'Katie' (A)
Box 2: Above 'saw' (B)
Box 3: Above 'eating' (C)

2. Look at the sentence below.

Despite being told time and time again, Helen, said her mother, is in a lot of trouble.

Which statement is true?

- A) Helen is in a lot of trouble.
- B) Helen's mother is in a lot of trouble.

Rewrite the sentence so the other statement is true.

3. Look at the sentence below.

In her spare time, Yasmin enjoys watching television, writing stories, and fairy-tales.

Which statement is true?

- A) Yasmin enjoys writing stories and fairy-tales.
- B) Yasmin enjoys writing stories.

Rewrite the sentence so the other statement is true.

4. Insert commas into the following passage to clarify the meaning of the sentences so the passage makes sense.

One day a motorist was driving along humming singing and talking. As he looked out of the window he noticed a sign. 'Slow - Children crossing' it said. "Careful children!" said his wife who was sitting alongside him. Outside he saw clouds a school and children everywhere. Some were already eating friends walking alongside them.

"It's going to be a good day break can't be far off," he said.

"They're off home work to do," she replied.

"They know schools out here in the country," said his wife.

Answers

1.a) The first box is C because this is the middle of a clause.

The second box is A because a comma should be used here to separate the subordinate and main clauses.

The third box is B. A comma could be used here to show that the sentence is directed towards mum. If 'mum' is the thing that will be tripped over, a comma is not needed.

1.b) 5b. The first box and second boxes are A 'Katie' is an embedded clause.

The third box is B. If the girl is eating an ice-cream, a comma is needed. If the monkey is eating an ice-cream, the comma is not needed.

2. A. Despite being told time and time again, Helen said her mother is in a lot of trouble.

3. B. In her spare time, Yasmin enjoys watching television, writing stories and fairy-tales.

One day, a motorist was driving along, humming, singing and talking. As he looked out of the window, he noticed a sign. 'Slow – Children crossing' it said. "Careful, children!" said his wife, who was sitting alongside him. Outside, he saw clouds, a school and children everywhere. Some were already eating, friends walking alongside them.

"It's going to be a good day, break can't be far off," he said.

"They're off home, work to do," she replied.

"They know schools, out here in the country," said his wife.