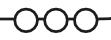


Adding Commas

I can add commas to clarify the meaning of a sentence.



Sentence	Explain your reason for adding commas or leaving the sentence as it is.
The rabbit had long sharp pointy teeth.	
As the campers sat round the fire eating the bear stayed in the bushes.	
Lucy wanted a biscuit but she couldn't haveone.	
David who was 10 wore glasses.	
Hetty dressed and performed for the packed audience.	
There was lots to do at the fair includingface painting and a raffle.	
While the onions were cooking soup was brought from the shop.	
If you have got everything you need thenwe are ready to go!	
Hanging out the washing is one of the most boring things in the world.	
He was cold without his jacket even though the sun was shining.	



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Sentence	Explain your reason for adding commas or leaving the sentence as it is.	
The rabbit had long, sharp, pointy teeth.	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.	
$As the {\it campers} satround the {\it fire} eating, the {\it bear stayed} in the {\it bushes}.$	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!	
Lucy wanted a biscuit, but she couldn't have one.	In a compound sentence like this, a comma is often used before the conjunction, but it can be written without.	
David, who was 10, wore glasses.	Commas are needed here to surround the embedded clause so that the sentence is read correctly.	
Hetty dressed, and performed for the packed audience.	The commain this sentence clarifies the meaning. Without it, it sounds as though Hetty getting dressed is part of the show!	
There was lots to do at the fair, including face painting and a raffle.	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.	
While the onions were cooking, soup was bought from the shop.	A commas 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!	
If you have got everything you need, then we are ready to go! If you have got everything you need then, we are ready to go!	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!	
Hanging out the washing is one of the most boring things in the world.	This is just a simple sentence which does not require commas - no ambiguity and no further clarification necessary.	
He was cold without his jacket even though the sun was shining.	This sentence doesn't need a comma to clarify meaning.	



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.

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Make Two Meanings

I can use commas to give a sentence two different meanings.



- 1. The view I imagined was amazing. The view I imagined was amazing.
- 2. When the lightning turned incredibly bright yellow people began to get scared. When the lightning turned incredibly bright yellow people began to get scared.
- 3. The girl who didn't like spiders was terrified. The girl who didn't like spiders was terrified.
- 4. He brought home some old folders and a donut which he ate as soon as he got hungry. He brought home some old folders and a donut which he ate as soon as he got hungry.
- 5. Hurry up and shoot grandad. Hurry up and shoot grandad.
- David said the astronaut was scared.David said the astronaut was scared.
- 7. When she's not working she loves eating her dog and her family. When she's not working she loves eating her dog and her family.
- 8. She found to her horror films were boring. She found to her horror films were boring.
- Compared to a giant star wars seemed so tiny and small.Compared to a giant star wars seemed so tiny and small.
- 10. All the time machines were getting more intelligent and powerful. All the time machines were getting more intelligent and powerful.

Answers

- The view I imagined was amazing.
 The view, I imagined, was amazing.
- 2. When the lightning turned incredibly bright yellow, people began to get scared. When the lightning turned incredibly bright, yellow people began to get scared.
- 3. The girl who didn't like spiders was terrified. The girl, who didn't like spiders, was terrified.
- 4. He brought home some old folders, and a donut which he ate as soon as he got hungry. He brought home some old folders and a donut, which he ate as soon as he got hungry.
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- 7. When she's not working she loves eating, her dog, and her family. When she's not working she loves eating her dog and her family.
- 8. She found to her horror, films were boring. She found to her, horror films were boring.
- 9. Compared to a giant, star wars seemed so tiny and small. Compared to a giant star, wars seemed so tiny and small.
- 10. All the time, machines were getting more intelligent and powerful. All the time machines were getting more intelligent and powerful.

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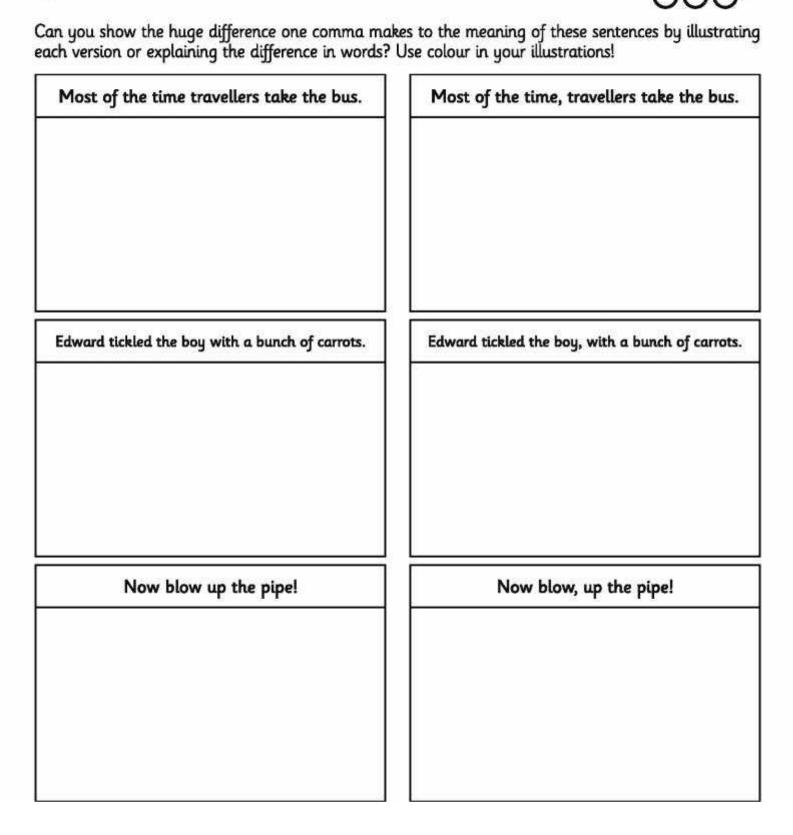
I can suggest different meanings a sentence

Can you show the huge difference one comma makes to the meaning of these sentences by illustrating each version or explaining the difference in words? Use colour in your illustrations!

Slow children crossing!	Slow, children crossing!
Eat Daniel!	Eat, Daniel!
Look at that blue, bearded man.	Look at that blue bearded man.



I can suggest different meanings a sentence





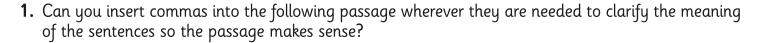
I can suggest different meanings a sentence could have. Can you show the huge difference one comma makes to the meaning of these sentences by illustrating each version or explaining the difference in words? Use colour in your illustrations! Slow children crossing! Slow, children crossing! Eat Daniel! Eat, Daniel! Look at that blue, bearded man. Look at that blue bearded man.



I can suggest different meanings a sentence could have. Can you show the huge difference one comma makes to the meaning of these sentences by illustrating each version or explaining the difference in words? Use colour in your illustrations! Most of the time travellers take the bus. Most of the time, travellers take the bus. Edward tickled the boy with a bunch of carrots. Edward tickled the boy, with a bunch of carrots. Now blow up the pipe! Now blow, up the pipe!

Application Activity

I can use commas to clarify the meaning of a sentence.



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.

2. Can you make up some sentences that might need commas to clarify their meanings?

"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.

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Answers

1. Can you insert commas into the following passage wherever they are needed 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.

2. Multiple possible answers.

Vame:	: Date:	
Usi	ng Commas to Clarify Meaning Mini Test	total marks
1. Ti	ick the sentences with meanings which could be changed with the addition of a comma.	4 marks
b)	She found a mouse trap and cheese all in the bucket as planned. David had said he didn't care. The weather was horrible all day so they stayed in.	
d)	He asked for money and Lego for his birthday. Don't risk it Grandma.	
2. H	ow do commas affect the meaning of these sentences? Explain briefly for each pair.	2 marks
a)	As the sun shone orange, people looked desperately for shade.	
	As the sun shone, orange people looked desperately for shade.	
b)	When he saw the pirate ship on the horizon, the captain sounded the alarm. When he saw the pirate ship, on the horizon the captain sounded the alarm.	
• •		total for

Using Commas to Clarify Meaning Test	2
3. Add or remove commas to give these sentences the required meaning.	
a) Writing, clearly, isn't easy.	3 marks
Can you add or remove commas in that sentence to make it mean that 'so everyone can understand isn't easy'?	writing
b) Jess likes baking cats and doing ballet.	
Can you add commas in the sentence so it shows that Jess has three ho	bbies.
c) Debbie's heroes are her parents, Spiderman, and Catwoman.	
Can you add or remove commas so that the sentence suggests that Deblorated parents are Spiderman and Catwoman.	bie's
	• • • •
END OF TEST	
	total for this page

1	Tick the	sentences with meanings which could be changed with the addition of a comma.	4 marks
	b) c) d)	She found a mouse, trap and cheese all in the bucket as planned. David had said, he didn't care. The weather was horrible all day so they stayed in. He asked for money, and Lego for his birthday. Don't, risk it Grandma.	
2	How do	commas affect the meaning of these sentences? Explain briefly for each pair.	2 marks
	a)	As the sun shone orange, people looked desperately for shade. As the sun shone, orange people looked desperately for shade.	
		In the first sentence, the sun is orange. In the second sentence it is the people that are orange.	
	b)	When he saw the pirate ship on the horizon, the captain sounded the alarm. When he saw the pirate ship, on the horizon the captain sounded the alarm.	
		In the first sentence, the captain sees the pirate ship on the horizon. In the second sentence, the captain is on the horizon himself.	
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 this sentence to make it mean 'writing so everyone can understand isn't easy?	
		Writing clearly isn't easy.	
	b)	Jess likes baking cats and doing ballet.	
		Can you add commas in that sentence so it shows that Jess has three hobbies.	
		Jess likes baking, cats and doing ballet.	
	c)	Debbie's heroes are her parents, Spiderman, and Catwoman.	
		Can you add or remove commas so that the sentence suggests that Debbies parents <i>are</i> Spiderman and Catwoman.	
		Debbie's heroes are her parents, Spiderman and Catwoman.	

Commas can be used to ensure that sentences are clear in their intention and meaning as one sentence without comma/s or with comma/s in a different position can have very different meanings.

Can you think how commas could change the meaning of this sentence?



Josephine was a pretty tall girl.

Here the absence of a comma invites us to read pretty tall as an adjectival phrase so we only find out that Josephine is relatively tall.

Josephine was a

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pretty, tall girl.

Here the comma separates two adjectives describing Josephine so we know she is pretty and tall.

It is well known that commas can also save lives:

Hurry up and shoot, Grandpa!

Without a comma in this sentence it becomes...

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Using Commas to

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Clarify Meaning

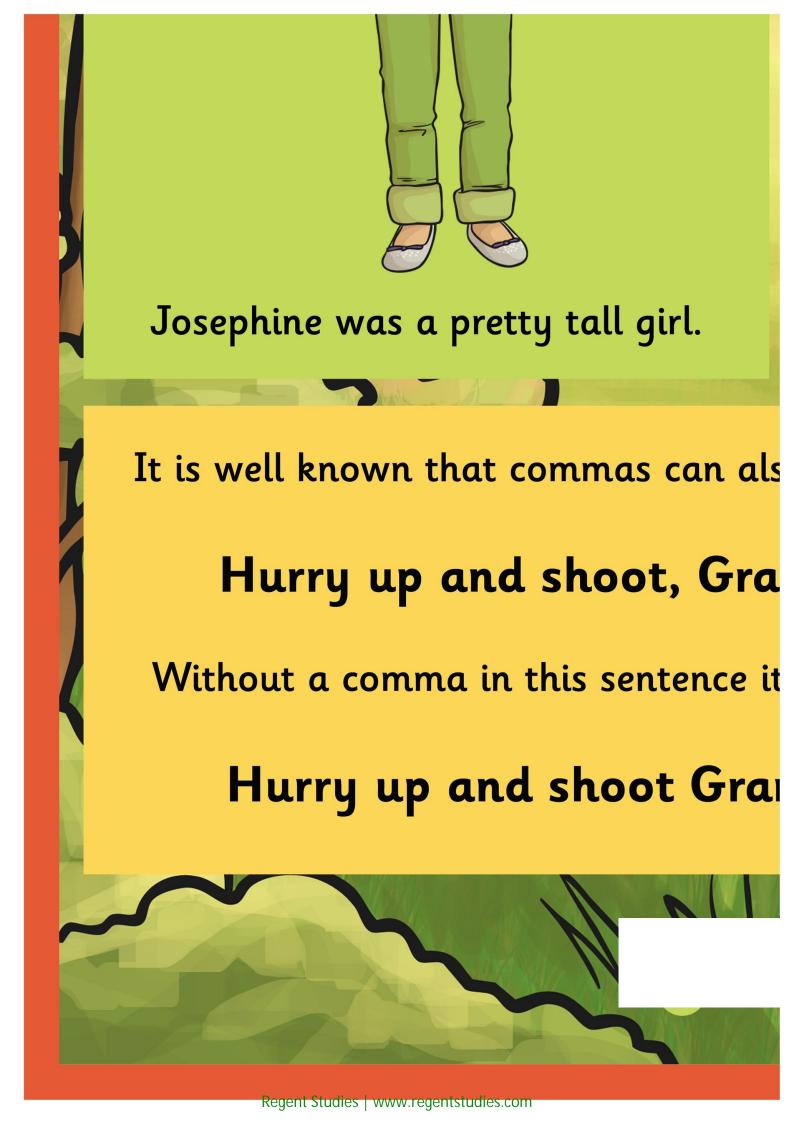
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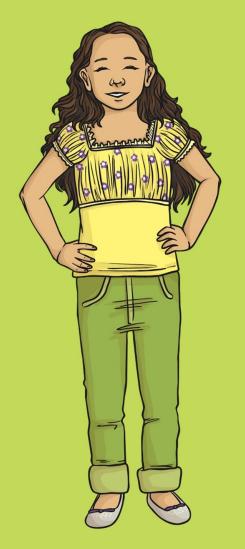
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Aim: Using commas to clarify meaning and avoid ambiguity. I can use commas to make sure the reader understands precisely what I am trying to say.	Prior Learning: Using commas to separate items on a list. Using commas to indicate direct speech. Using commas after fronted adverbials. Using commas to indicate parenthesis.	Resources: Lesson Pack Colouring Pencils
Success Criteria: I can tell when the meaning in a sentence is unclear.	Key/New Words: Comma, clarify, ambiguity.	Preparation: Draw the Sentence Activity Sheet per child
I can suggest different meanings a sentence could have.		Adding Commas Activity Sheet per child Make Two Meanings Activity Sheet 1 per child
I can add or remove commas to clarify the meaning of a sentence.		Mini Test Activity Sheet 1 per child Application Activity Sheet as required



Introductory Activity

Show the children a list of sentences that have been punctuated with commas. Ask them to talk to a partner and decide why each comma has been used in each sentence. The last sentence contains a comma that is only needed to clarify the meaning of the sentence. Share and discuss the answers on the next slide.

Check that the children have the required prior learning for this lesson and that they are familiar with the main functions of a comma within a sentence. Check to see if children make any suggestions about the comma in no. 6 being needed to clarify meaning.



Independent Focused Activity

Children use the differentiated Sentence Draw activity to explore visually the difference commas can make to the meaning of a sentence. Check that children understand how the emphasis in the sentence changes as a result of the comma.



Children to complete the **Sentence Draw Activity Sheet** independently.



Children to complete the more challenging Sentence Draw Activity Sheet independently.



Review Activity

Children use the differentiated Adding Commas activity sheet to read like an editor and decide whether the meaning in a sentence needs making clearer through the addition of commas.

Can the children see how to use commas to place different emphasis on the words and therefore alter the meaning of the sentence?



Children to complete the **Adding Commas Activity Sheet** independently.



Children to complete the more challenging Adding Commas Activity Sheet independently.



Consolidation Activity

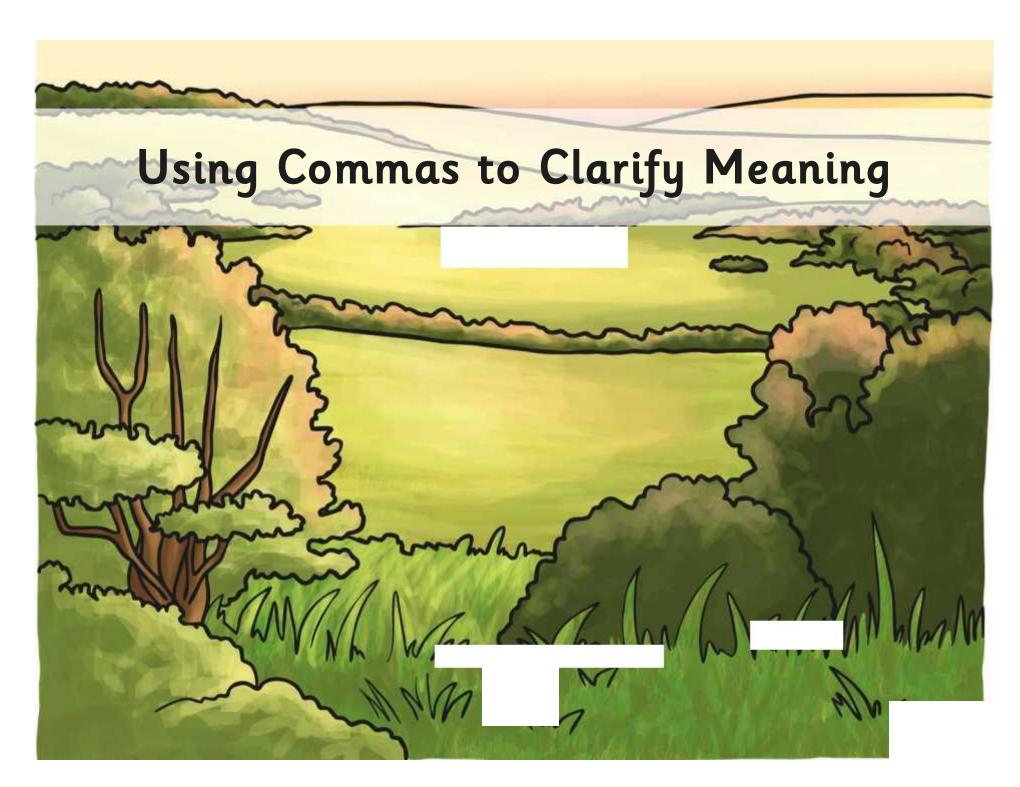
Make Two Meanings Activity Sheet. Children use commas to make the same words in a sentence carry two distinct meanings. Check that the children can comment on the different meaning of the sentence they have created.

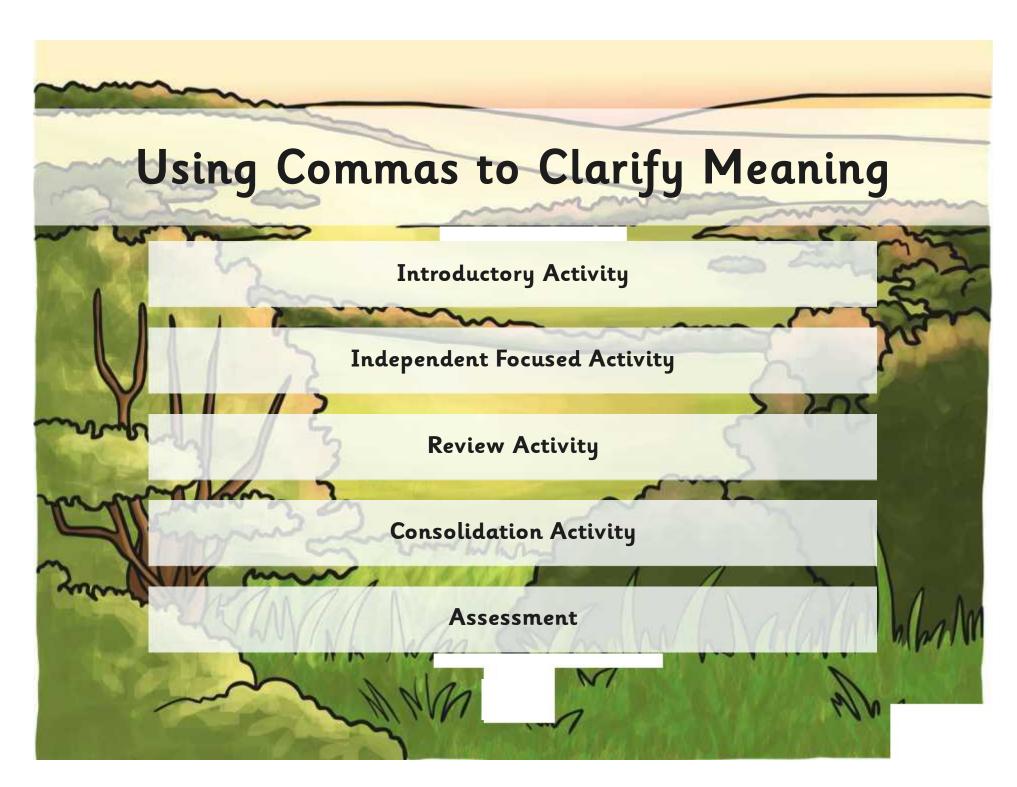


Assessment

The children complete the **Mini Test** in order to test their understanding. The children complete the **Application Activity** as required.





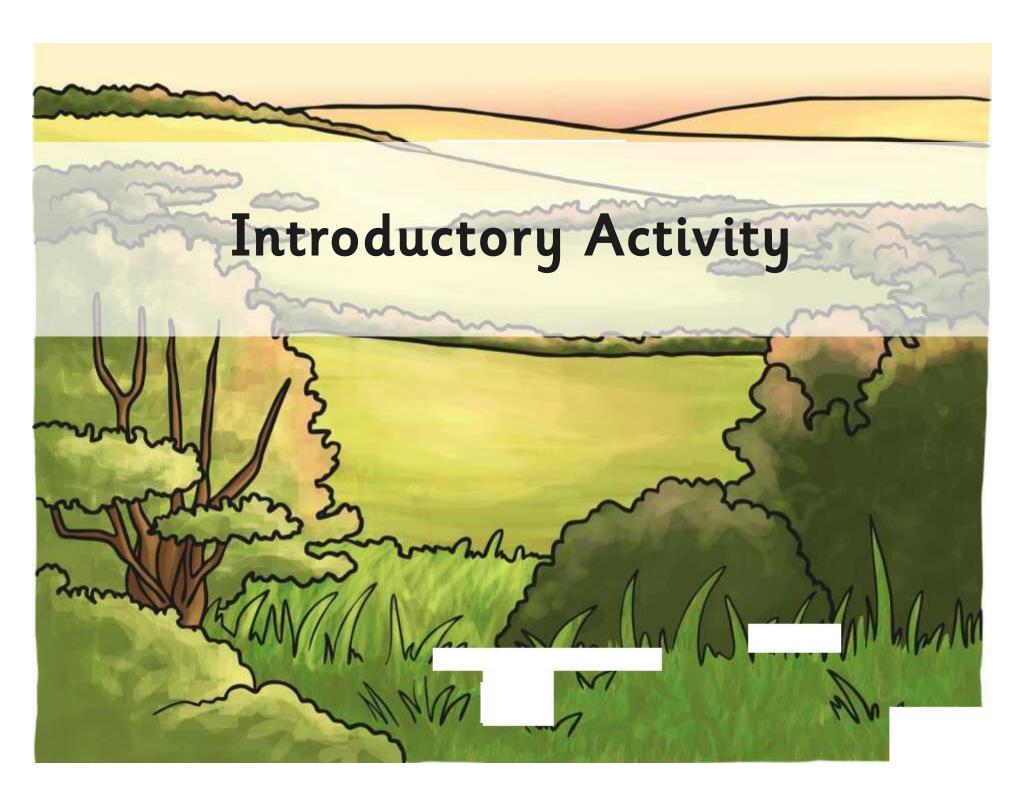


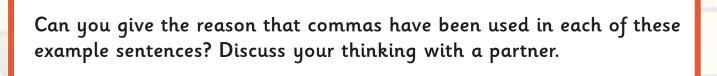
Aim

• I can use commas to make sure the reader understands precisely what I am trying to say.

Success Criteria

- I can tell when the meaning in a sentence is unclear.
- I can suggest different meanings that a sentence could have.
- I can add or remove commas to clarify the meaning of a sentence.







Max had bought cheese, pears, sausage rolls and pickle, especially for the picnic.

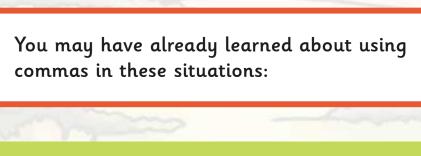
Artem, who was only 9 years old, was a better piano player than many students twice his age.

The rain was certainly heavy, but the Sun was suggesting it hadn't gone for good.

"I was amazed at how much I had got done in the day," she said.

When they finally reached their destination, they realised he had been right all along!

The artist, who was a bit of a dreamer, sat and painted the sea.





To separate items in a list.

After a fronted adverbial.

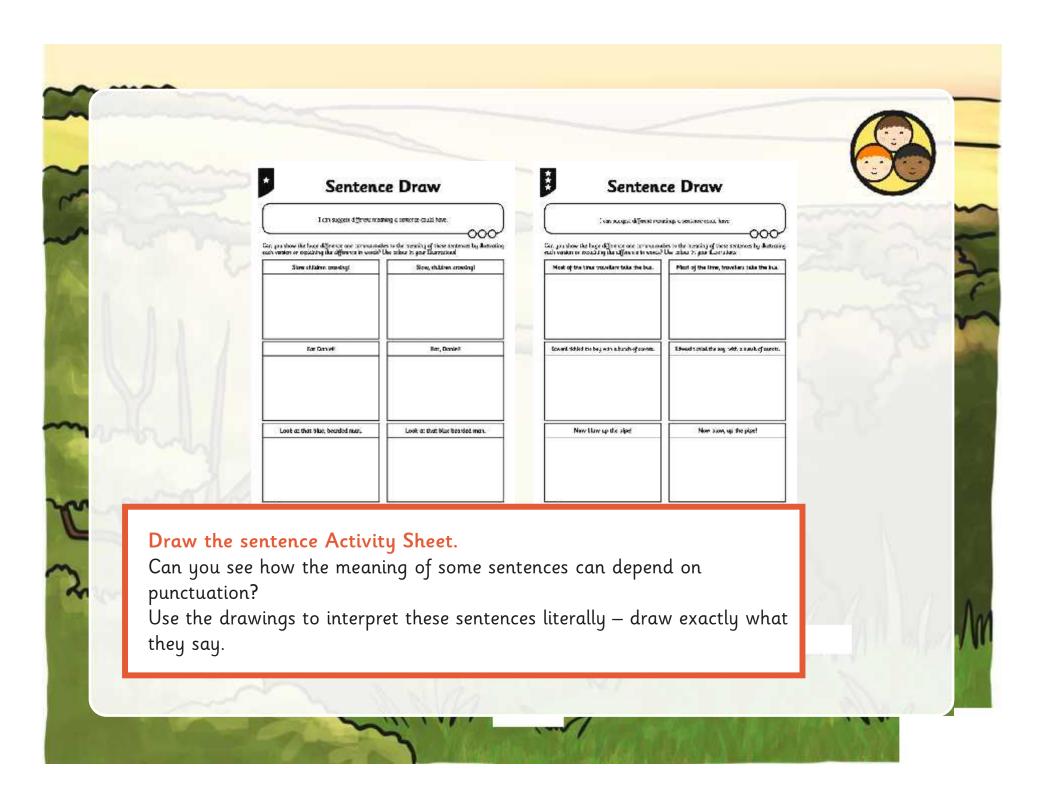
To indicate extra information in a sentence.

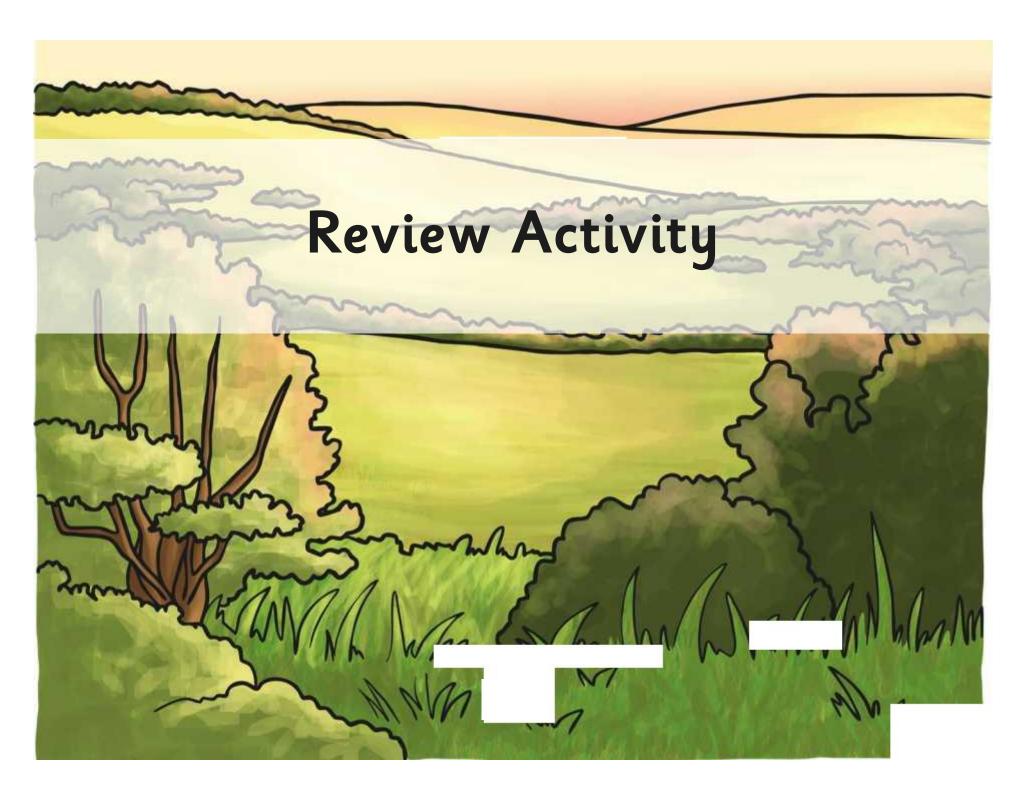
After direct speech.

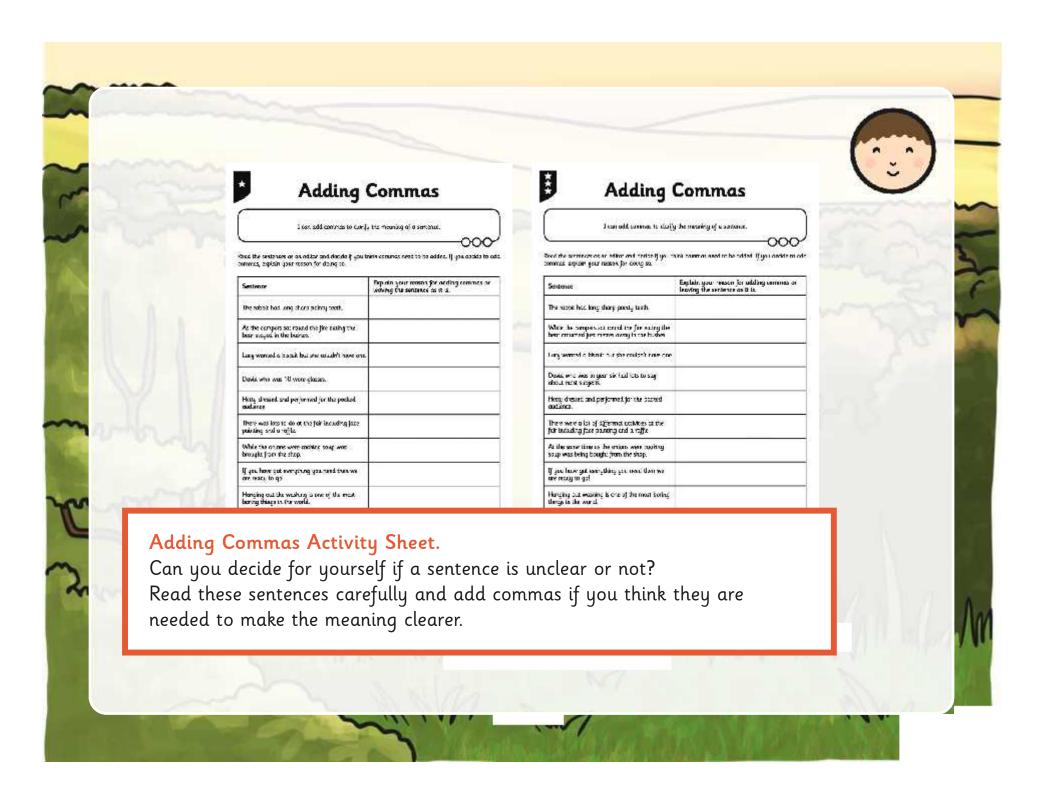
This lesson may call on your knowledge of general comma use but it is primarily about using commas to make the meaning of sentences absolutely clear. On some occasions a comma may be needed even though there is no grammatical rule that requires it.

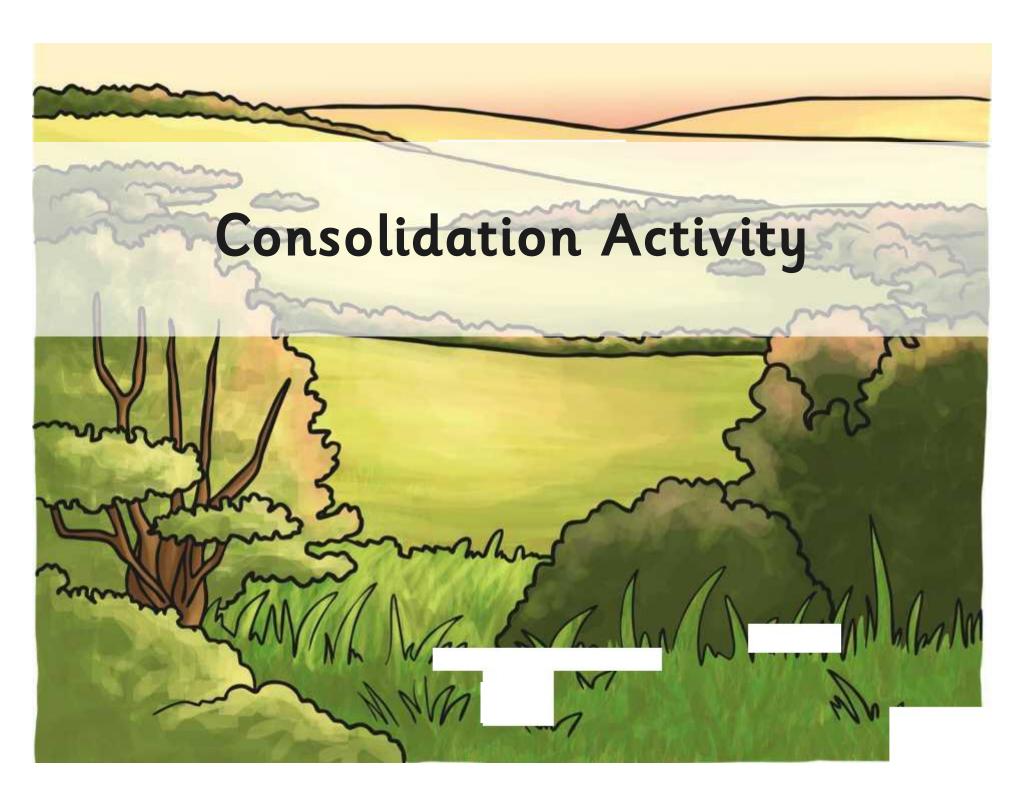




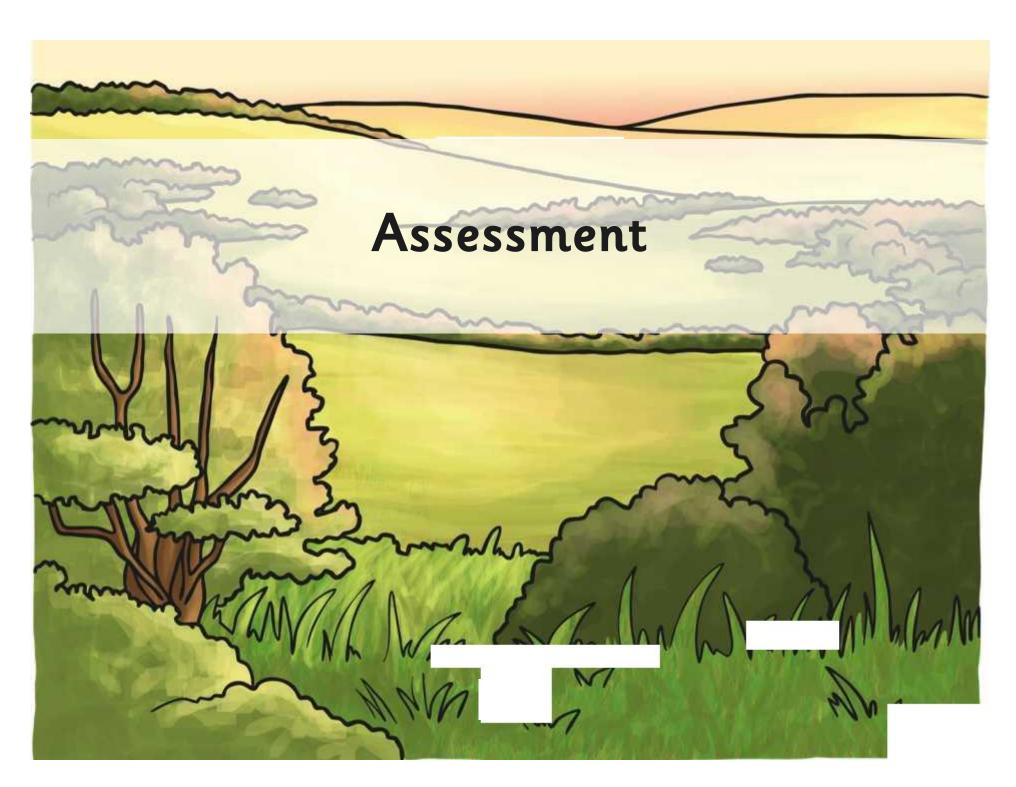












Assessment Activity Using Commas to Clarify Meaning Test 3. Add or remove common to give these sentences the required meaning Using Commas to Clarify Meaning Mini Test a) Writing, clearly, isn't easy. 1. Tak the sentences with meanings which could be changed with the addition of a comma Can you add or remove commas in that sentence to make it mean that 'writing so everyone can understand but easy? a) She found a mouse trap and cheese all in the bucket as planned. 60 David had said he didn't care. e) The weather was horrible all day so they stayed in. b) The criminal said the judge was an idlot. d) He asked for maney and Lego for his birthday. Can you add commas in that sentence so it says the criminal is an idiot. e) Don't risk it Grandma. e) Debbie's heroes are her parents, Spiderman, and Catwoman. Can you add or remove commor so that the sentence suggests that Debble's parents are Spiderwoman and Catwoman. 2. How do common 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. **BND OF 1852 *** b) Save him, not kill him. Save him not, kill him. Can you demonstrate your ability to use commas to make the meaning of sentences clearer and decide whether sentences can mean more than one thing or not. Work on your own to complete the Using Commas to Clarify Meaning Mini Test Activity Sheet.

Application Activity



Application Activity

1. Can you have common into the following passage wherever they are needed to the fig the meaning of the vent-rank on the presign makes series?

One day, a materials was drawing along humaning singing and solding. As we knowed out of the whiches needed a sign. Saw or larner crossing a sold. "Careful children?" sold his wife who was string alongstice him. Outside his sow clouds soluted and children comprehen. Some were streamly eating friends waiting alongstic him.

This going to be a good day break cen't be far off?" he said.

"They're off home work to day" she repeat.

2. Can you make up some sentences that might spect, common to durify their meanings?

1.

2.

Can you apply what you have learned about using commas to make the meaning clearer within a paragraph and are you able to dream up some sentences of your own which could mean more than one thing? Work on your own to complete the

Aim

• I can use commas to make sure the reader understands precisely what I am trying to say.

Success Criteria

- I can tell when the meaning in a sentence is unclear.
- I can suggest different meanings a sentence could have.
- I can add or remove commas to clarify the meaning of a sentence.



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Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Guide





The Learning Sequence

Each SPaG Lesson Plan Consists of 5 Sections

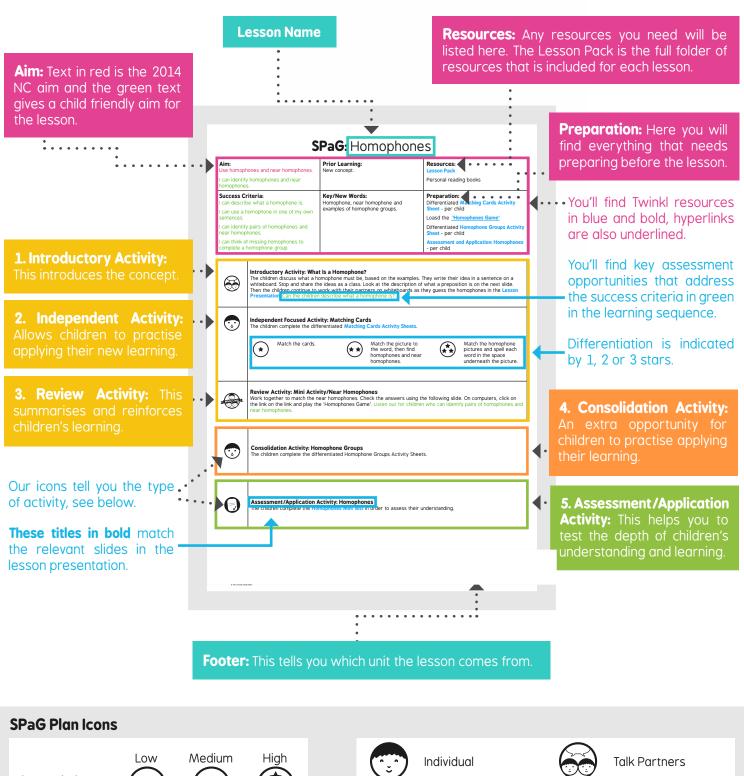
The first three sections, **Introductory Activity**, **Independent Focused Activity** and **Review Activity** function either together as a complete lesson plan, or as stand-alone learning activities for small group intervention or morning work.

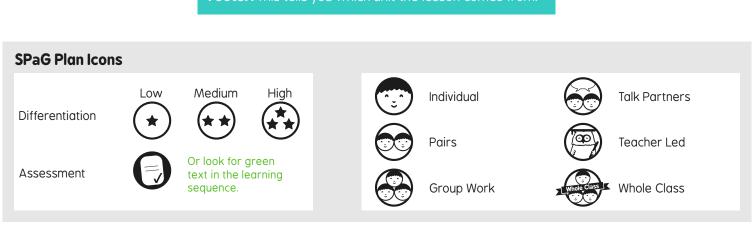
Two additional activities, the **Consolidation Activity** and **Assessment/Application Activity**, have also been added for extra exploration of the learning aim.



What Goes into a SPaG Plan?

Each lesson pack contains a lesson plan as a pdf document. Text can be copied from the plan to your own lesson planning format. Our SPaG lessons are split into five different sections to offer maximum flexibility to suit your needs.





What Goes into a SPaG Presentation?

Each lesson pack has a lesson presentation, available as a PowerPoint or interactive whiteboard file. The presentation frames the learning sequence, providing information, posing questions and setting tasks.

Each presentation has the same 3 slides at the beginning;



Slide One: PlanIt title slide with the subject and the unit title. The footer of the slide will match the lesson plan.



Slide Two: Child-friendly title slide. You might choose to start your lesson with this slide.



Slide Three: Contents slide that links directly to each section of the presentation.

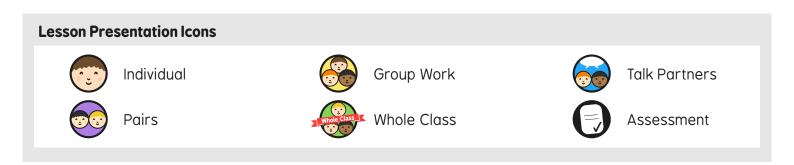
Slide titles in the lesson presentation correspond with the bold titles in the learning sequence in the lesson plan.

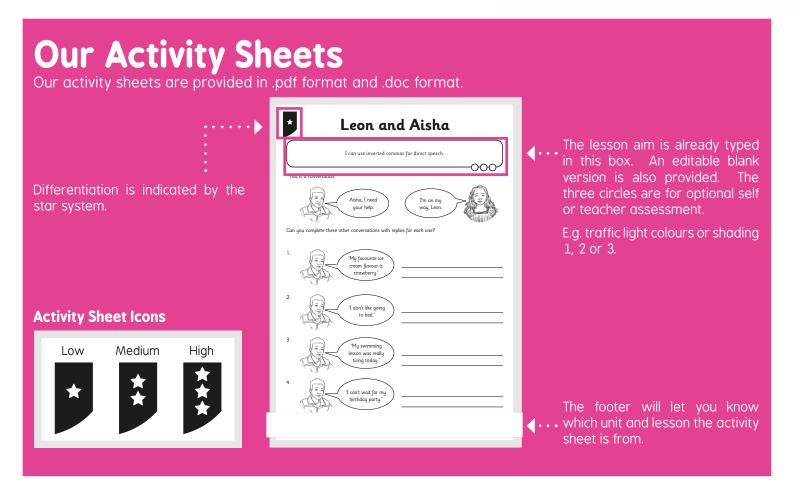
You'll find the corresponding icon in the top right-hand corner. There is a key to the icons at the bottom of the page.





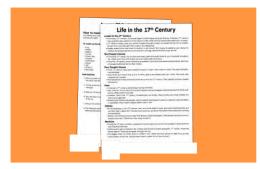
Every presentation will start and finish with the success criteria slide to help facilitate the children's assessment.





What is SPaG Adult Guidance?

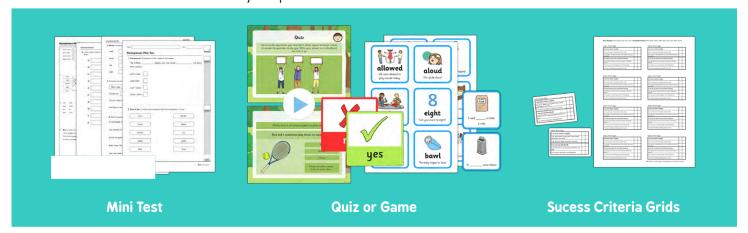
Adult guidance provides teachers with background knowledge and information to assist with the lesson. The type of guidance in the pack will depend on the lesson content.



SPaG Assessment

In addition to the lesson plan, presentation and activity sheets, all Planit SPaG lesson packs will contain success criteria grids for easy assessment. The provides a test for

Years Two to Six, whilst Year One packs include a quiz or game. Application activities add an opportunity for children to demonstrate their newly acquired SPaG skills.



Meet the Teacher Team behind PlanIt.

Helen

From an inner-city school in London to a village school in Yorkshire, Helen is a former SENCo who has enjoyed 13 years teaching Years 2 to 6 focusing on a creative, crosscurricular approach.



Gemma

With 13 years experience as a primary teacher, Gemma has led Science, Design and Technology and Healthy Schools. She has a passion for igniting learning through a hands-on approach.



Arts within the primary classroom and beyond, Helen strives to bring innovation and creativity across the curriculum, particularly in English and History.





Tarjinder

Tarjinder has 10 years teaching experience in inner-city Birmingham, Leicester and London. She has been a subject leader in History and Computing, and has a passion for Geography and RE.



Tim has worked in primary schools in London, Cyprus and Sheffield as a headteacher, teacher and IT technician. He has expertise in Maths, Science and Computing and enjoys children's literature.



Victoria

Vicky is an experienced teacher who has taught across both key stages. English, History and PE are her passions and she enjoys planning activities which are fun, lively and engaging.



Before retiring from teaching after 34 years, Dawn's final role was as associate headteacher of a multicultural school. She loves bringing fun into the classroom, especially through games and role play.





Emma

Emma is a talented artist who brings her creative skills to teaching. She loves coming up with new, exciting and innovative ideas to inspire learning, particularly in KS1 and EYFS.



years experience teaching in a variety of settings. She loves inspiring children to be enthusiastic about new languages.





Jemma

An experienced SEN teacher and SENCo in KS1-3, Jemma has an MA Diploma in SEN and expertise in Geography, English and PSHE. She loves visual resources and sign language.



With 15 years primary teaching experience, Steve has enjoyed roles in Senior Leadership, assessment and mentoring. Specialising in English and Computing, he is also an author and school governor.





Sue has experience in teaching from EYFS to KS3, in very small schools, larger primary and middle schools and in the independent sector. She has expertise in Humanities and Computing.



Experienced across the primary phase, Leeanne has an enthusiasm for literature and art. She is dedicated to promoting active and creative learning for children of all ages and abilities.





Helen

Helen is an experienced teacher, passionate about inspiring children through creative and engaging activities. She has enjoyed leading and developing specialisms in Science, History and KS2 assessments.



a master's degree in Effective Teaching and Learning. She is passionate about helping all children achieve their full potential.





Ellen

Working in both key stages for nearly a decade in schools across London, Ellen is keen to inspire a culture of learning through her love of the Arts.



Be kind to yourself, you're doing wonderfully.

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SPaG | Using Commas to Clarify Meaning

I can use commas to make sure the reader understands precisely what I am trying to say.	
I can tell when the meaning in a sentence is unclear.	
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