Name: Date: Score: / 8

Commas in a Series: Learn and Practice

Separate items in a list with commas

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Commas in a Series

- When you list three or more items, put a comma between them.
- Many writers also put a comma before the word and at the end of the list.
- I bought apples, pears, and plums.

1 What do commas in a series separate?

A. a noun and its adjective

B. two complete sentences

C. a speaker and a quotation

D. three or more items in a list

2 How many commas are in this sentence? We saw owls, deer, and foxes.

A. three B. two C. one D. zero

3 Which is punctuated correctly?

A. I bought apples pears and plums.

B. I bought, apples pears and plums.

C. I bought apples, pears, and plums.

D. I bought apples, pears and, plums.

4 In a list, which word usually comes before the last item?

A. and, or sometimes or B. so C. but

D. because

5 Which is punctuated correctly?

A. We saw Regina, Calgary, and Banff.

B. We saw, Regina Calgary and Banff.

C. We saw Regina Calgary, and Banff.

D. We saw Regina, Calgary and, Banff.

6 Which is punctuated correctly?

A. Red, blue and, yellow are colors.

B. Red blue and yellow, are colors.

C. Red, blue, and yellow are colors.

D. Red blue, and yellow are colors.

7 Which sentence has a list that needs commas?

A. We need eggs. B. We need milk and flour.

C. We need eggs milk and flour.

D. We need flour today.

8 Which is punctuated correctly?

A. Kim, ran jumped and swam.

B. Kim ran, jumped and, swam.

C. Kim ran, jumped, and swam.

D. Kim ran jumped, and swam.

✏️ Explain it! In your own words, write the rule for commas in a series and one example.

ANSWER KEY

Commas in a Series: Learn and Practice (answers)

Separate items in a list with commas

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 What do commas in a series separate?

A. a noun and its adjective

B. two complete sentences

C. a speaker and a quotation

D. three or more items in a list

Series commas keep list items apart so the reader can see each one.

2 How many commas are in this sentence? We saw owls, deer, and foxes.

A. three **B. two** C. one D. zero

There is a comma after owls and another after deer. That makes two.

3 Which is punctuated correctly?

A. I bought apples pears and plums.

B. I bought, apples pears and plums.

C. I bought apples, pears, and plums.

D. I bought apples, pears and, plums.

Commas separate each item in the list of three fruits.

4 In a list, which word usually comes before the last item?

A. and, or sometimes or B. so C. but

D. because

Lists usually end with and or or, like cats, dogs, or fish.

5 Which is punctuated correctly?

A. We saw Regina, Calgary, and Banff.

B. We saw, Regina Calgary and Banff.

C. We saw Regina Calgary, and Banff.

D. We saw Regina, Calgary and, Banff.

Each place in the list is separated by a comma.

6 Which is punctuated correctly?

A. Red, blue and, yellow are colors.

B. Red blue and yellow, are colors.

C. Red, blue, and yellow are colors.

D. Red blue, and yellow are colors.

Each color in the list is separated by a comma.

7 Which sentence has a list that needs commas?

A. We need eggs. B. We need milk and flour.

C. We need eggs milk and flour.

D. We need flour today.

Eggs, milk and flour are three items, so commas are needed.

8 Which is punctuated correctly?

A. Kim, ran jumped and swam.

B. Kim ran, jumped and, swam.

C. Kim ran, jumped, and swam.

D. Kim ran jumped, and swam.

A list of actions also uses commas. Ran, jumped, and swam.