

The comma (,) is another very important punctuation mark in English. A comma has many purposes: when to breathe in a sentence; separating items in a list; separating independent clauses (he walked down the street, and then he turned the corner); after an introductory/dependent clause (when Evan was ready to iron, his cat broke the ironing board); before and after a drop-in clause (Sally, who you went fishing with, is in hospital); to signify direct speech (Frank, I'm sorry); before quotations (Alex said, "I don't like discos..."); with dates (21st of November, 1984); with addresses (23 Aston Street, London); and with numbers (13,345). There are two types of commas: the regular comma, and the Oxford Comma. The Oxford Comma is a comma that people argue to be grammatically incorrect. It is the same as a normal comma, except it is used before the word, 'and' in lists (e.g., 'I have a dog, cat, and fish.'). A regular comma is the same except you don't use it before the word, 'and' (e.g., 'I have a dog, cat and fish.'). You can use this in English, as long as you check with your teacher, as they may mark you down for using it. Both commas are grammatically correct.



### Activity

Do this activity to make sure you have the hang of commas. Rewrite each sentence in your exercise book, but add commas:

- 1- 21st of November 1999 (using commas in dates).
- 2- I am going to go to Japan Mexico and Croatia (you can use either an Oxford or regular comma).
- 3- Dana screamed "I want ice-cream!" (Using a comma before quotations/ speech).
- 4- John I didn't know (using a comma to signify direct speech).
- 5- 81 Heinrich Lane Berlin (using commas in addresses).
- 6- Before Alex could start writing his pencil broke (using a comma after an introductory/dependent clause).