

Remember the rules!

- Use a comma after each item in a list, but not before the word and. Example: We packed a tent, sleeping bags and a torch.
- When the reporting clause comes first in direct speech, put a comma after it, before the opening speech mark. Example: Dad warned, "Stay close to the fire."
- When the spoken words come first, put a comma after them, inside the closing speech mark, before the reporting clause. Example: "I can see the stars," whispered Amy.
- If the spoken words end with a question mark or exclamation mark, that punctuation stays inside the speech marks and no extra comma is needed. Example: "Where's the torch?" asked Jack.
- When a sentence starts with an adverb or adverbial phrase (a fronted adverbial), put a comma straight after it, before the main clause begins. Example: Eventually, we found the perfect camping spot.

Section A — Commas in a List

Each sentence below is missing its commas. Write the whole sentence correctly on the line below, adding a comma after each item in the list.

1. We packed a tent sleeping bags and a torch for the trip.

2. At the campsite we saw rabbits foxes and deer.

3. We toasted marshmallows sang songs and told stories by the fire.

4. The forest was full of tall oak trees ferns and wildflowers.

5. We need matches a map and a first aid kit for the hike.



Section B — Commas and Direct Speech

Underline the sentence that punctuates the direct speech correctly.

6. Which sentence punctuates the direct speech correctly?

- A) "Let's set up the tent" said Dad.
- B) "Let's set up the tent," said Dad.
- C) "Let's set up the tent" said, Dad.
- D) "Let's set up the tent," said, Dad.

Underline your answer.

7. Which sentence punctuates the direct speech correctly?

- A) Mum shouted "Watch out for that branch!"
- B) Mum shouted, "Watch out for that branch!"
- C) Mum shouted, "Watch out for that branch"
- D) Mum shouted "Watch out for that branch,"

Underline your answer.

8. Which sentence punctuates the direct speech correctly?

- A) "Can you help me light the fire?" asked Leo.
- B) "Can you help me light the fire" asked, Leo.
- C) "Can you help me light the fire?", asked Leo.
- D) "Can you help me light the fire" asked Leo.

Underline your answer.

9. Which sentence punctuates the direct speech correctly?

- A) Grandad explained "This is how you pitch a tent."
- B) Grandad explained, "This is how you pitch a tent."
- C) Grandad explained, "This is how you pitch a tent"
- D) Grandad explained "This is how you pitch a tent,"

Underline your answer.

10. Which sentence punctuates the direct speech correctly?

- A) "I can see the stars," whispered Amy.
- B) "I can see the stars" whispered Amy.
- C) "I can see the stars," whispered, Amy.
- D) "I can see the stars" whispered, Amy.

Underline your answer.



Section C — Commas After Fronted Adverbials

Underline the sentence that punctuates the fronted adverbial correctly.

11. Which sentence correctly punctuates the fronted adverbial?

- A) Eventually, we found the perfect camping spot.
- B) Eventually we found, the perfect camping spot.
- C) Eventually we found the perfect, camping spot.
- D) Eventually we found the perfect camping spot,.

Underline your answer.

12. Which sentence correctly punctuates the fronted adverbial?

- A) Carefully, Dad lit the campfire.
- B) Carefully Dad lit, the campfire.
- C) Carefully Dad lit the, campfire.
- D) Carefully Dad lit the campfire,.

Underline your answer.

13. Which sentence correctly punctuates the fronted adverbial?

- A) As the sun set, we gathered around the fire.
- B) As the sun set we, gathered around the fire.
- C) As the sun set we gathered, around the fire.
- D) As the sun set we gathered around the fire,.

Underline your answer.

14. Which sentence correctly punctuates the fronted adverbial?

- A) Without warning, the rain began to pour.
- B) Without warning the rain, began to pour.
- C) Without warning the rain began, to pour.
- D) Without warning the rain began to pour,.

Underline your answer.

15. Which sentence correctly punctuates the fronted adverbial?

- A) Early the next morning, we packed up our tents.
- B) Early the next morning we, packed up our tents.
- C) Early the next morning we packed, up our tents.
- D) Early the next morning we packed up our tents,.

Underline your answer.

Section D — Mixed Comma Practice

Underline the correctly punctuated sentence.

16. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?

- A) We packed torches, blankets and snacks for the trip.
- B) We packed torches blankets and snacks for the trip.
- C) We packed, torches blankets and snacks for the trip.
- D) We packed torches, blankets, and snacks, for the trip.

Underline your answer.

17. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?

- A) Nervously, we set off into the dark forest.
- B) Nervously we set off, into the dark forest.
- C) Nervously we set off into the dark, forest.
- D) Nervously we set off into the dark forest,.

Underline your answer.

18. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?

- A) "Where's the torch?" asked Jack.
- B) "Where's the torch" asked, Jack.
- C) "Where's the torch?", asked Jack.
- D) "Where's the torch" asked Jack.

Underline your answer.

19. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?

- A) Quietly, the campers crept back to their tents.
- B) Quietly the campers crept, back to their tents.
- C) Quietly the campers crept back, to their tents.
- D) Quietly the campers crept back to their tents,.

Underline your answer.

20. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?

- A) We spotted owls, bats and hedgehogs at night.
- B) We spotted owls bats and hedgehogs at night.
- C) We spotted, owls bats and hedgehogs at night.
- D) We spotted owls, bats, and hedgehogs, at night.

Underline your answer.

Section E — Further Practice

Underline your answer for each question below.

21. Which sentence punctuates the direct speech correctly?

- A) "This is my favourite part of camping," said Ben.
- B) "This is my favourite part of camping" said Ben.
- C) "This is my favourite part of camping," said, Ben.
- D) "This is my favourite part of camping" said, Ben.

Underline your answer.

22. Which sentence correctly punctuates the fronted adverbial?

- A) Suddenly, an owl hooted in the darkness.
- B) Suddenly an owl hooted, in the darkness.
- C) Suddenly an owl hooted in the, darkness.
- D) Suddenly an owl hooted in the darkness,.

Underline your answer.

23. Which sentence uses commas correctly in a list?

- A) We roasted sausages, beans and marshmallows on the fire.
- B) We roasted sausages beans and marshmallows on the fire.
- C) We roasted, sausages beans and marshmallows on the fire.
- D) We roasted sausages, beans, and marshmallows, on the fire.

Underline your answer.

24. Which sentence punctuates the direct speech correctly?

- A) Dad warned, "Stay close to the fire."
- B) Dad warned "Stay close to the fire."
- C) Dad warned, "Stay close to the fire"
- D) Dad warned "Stay close to the fire,"

Underline your answer.

. Which sentence correctly punctuates the fronted adverbial?

- A) After breakfast, we went exploring in the woods.
- B) After breakfast we went, exploring in the woods.
- C) After breakfast we went exploring, in the woods.
- D) After breakfast we went exploring in the woods,.

Underline your answer.