

## TWELFTH NIGHT: ACT 1 YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 PUNCTUATION EXERCISE: COMMAS

### L.I: TO USE COMMAS TO CLARIFY MEANING OR AVOID AMBIGUITY

#### Commas are used to

- separate items in a list
- separate direct speech from a reporting clause
- indicate parenthesis within a sentence with an embedded clause
- avoid ambiguity
- separate main and subordinate clauses.

The main focus for this activity is using commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity. If you use a comma it can change the meaning of a sentence entirely.

For example

Valentine Orsino's servant swept into the room

Valentine, Orsino's servant, swept into the room

By putting commas after *Valentine* and *servant*, the meaning of the sentence changes completely.

Useful videos:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrdyvk7>

**TWELFTH NIGHT: ACT 1  
YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6  
PUNCTUATION EXERCISE**

**EXERCISE 1:  
REWRITE EACH SENTENCE, ADDING IN COMMAS.**

1. The musician turned white and trying to clutch nose foot and violin all at the same time slowly keeled over.

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2. "If music be the food of love play on give me excess of it!" Orsino said.

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3. "What country friends is this?" Viola asked.

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4. "This is Illyria lady."

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5. "Orsino governs here, a noble duke in nature as in name."

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**TWELFTH NIGHT: ACT 1  
YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6  
PUNCTUATION EXERCISE  
ANSWERS**

**EXERCISE 1:  
REWRITE EACH SENTENCE, ADDING IN COMMAS.**

1. The musician turned white and trying to clutch nose foot and violin all at the same time slowly keeled over.  
The musician turned white and, trying to clutch nose, foot and violin all at the same time, slowly keeled over.
2. "If music be the food of love play on give me excess of it!" Orsino said.  
"If music be the food of love, play on, give me excess of it!" Orsino said.
3. "What country friends is this?" Viola asked.  
"What country, friends, is this?" Viola asked.
4. "This is Illyria lady."  
"This is Illyria, lady."
5. "Orsino governs here, a noble duke in nature as in name."  
"Orsino governs here, a noble duke, in nature as in name."