# 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,

“Eat Hamlet”.

“Eat, Hamlet”**.**

By putting the comma after *Eat*, the meaning of the sentence changes completely.

Useful article: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc773k7#zrggdb

# Exercise 1:

Rewrite each sentence, adding in commas.

1. Let’s eat Claudius!
2. After Hamlet left Claudius Polonius and Gertrude met up to talk.
3. The ghost chased Hamlet shouting “LISTEN TO ME”
4. That’s Old Hamlet Horatio.
5. Horatio dismissed the ghost walking away.
6. Let’s eat Claudius!

Let’s eat, Claudius!

1. After Hamlet left Claudius Polonius and Gertrude met up to talk.

After Hamlet left Claudius, Polonius and Gertrude met up to talk.

1. The ghost chased Hamlet shouting “LISTEN TO ME”

The ghost chased Hamlet, shouting “LISTEN TO ME”

1. “That’s Old Hamlet Horatio”.

“That’s Old Hamlet, Horatio”.

1. Horatio dismissed the ghost walking away.

Horatio dismissed the ghost, walking away.