

Grade 2 • Lesson 12: The Comma in a Series

PUNCTUATION & SERIES LISTS



The Serial Comma Rule

A comma separates three or more words used in the same way.

- Series of verbs: *Charles can see, hear, and feel.*
- Series of adjectives: *The pear is large, yellow, and juicy.*

A INSERT COMMAS IN THE SERIES

Rewrite each sentence and place commas between the words in the series:

1. The pear is large yellow and juicy.

.....

2. Mary reads writes and sings well.

.....

3. Our flag is red white and blue.

.....

4. Horses dogs sheep and cows live on the farm.

.....

B COMPOSE SENTENCES WITH A SERIES

Write original sentences using commas to separate words in a series:

1. (List three fruits you like to eat)

.....

2. (List three things a good student can do)

.....

The Serial (Oxford) Comma Rule:

When three or more coordinate words or phrases occur in an enumeration, each element is separated by a comma, including the element preceding the coordinating conjunction *and* (e.g., *see, hear, and feel*). This prevents ambiguity and teaches children balanced rhythmic cadence.

Section A • Correct Comma Placement:

1. The pear is large, yellow, and juicy. (Series of predicate adjectives).
2. Mary reads, writes, and sings well. (Series of coordinate action verbs).
3. Our flag is red, white, and blue. (Series of adjectives of color).
4. Horses, dogs, sheep, and cows live on the farm. (Series of four subject nouns).

Section B • Exemplar Pupil Sentences:

- *Fruits*: I like to eat apples, pears, and sweet peaches.
- *Student abilities*: A good student listens, studies, and learns every day.

Teacher Diagnostic Note:

Watch for pupils who forget the comma immediately before "and" (the serial comma). Primary Language Lessons rigorously emphasizes this comma to establish consistent punctuation discipline early.

Competency	Mastery (Exemplary)	Developing	Needs Guidance
Serial Comma Placement	Accurately inserts all commas across adjectives, verbs, and nouns.	1 comma omitted (often before "and").	Commas placed randomly or completely omitted.
Series Composition	Writes 2 fluent, grammatically sound series sentences with coordinating "and".	Writes series with minor syntax awkwardness.	Fails to list 3 coordinate elements.
Capitalization & Period	All rewritten and original sentences begin with capital and end with period.	1 capitalization or terminal mark error.	Multiple mechanics errors throughout.
Penmanship & Alignment	Commas are clearly formed with hooks sitting neatly on the baseline.	Commas look like dots or float above line.	Punctuation marks illegible or unclear.