ENGLISH DEPT **COMMAS** S2 HW

**Commas can be quite tricky but learning three simple rules can help you get it right.**

Use a comma...

1. **To mark off part of a sentencewhen it starts with a conjunction.**

*E.g. Before he went to work, he had to walk the dog.*

1. **To mark off simple items in a list.**

*E.g. Claire’s costume consisted of tights, a cape and a mask.*

1. **To mark off extra information in a sentence.**

*E.g. Mr Brown, our chemistry teacher, always wears a suit.*

*Note: The extra information is the part of the sentence that adds more detail; if it wasn’t there, the sentence would still make sense.*

**COPY all the above into your jotter.**

**TASK ONE: The following sentences need a comma to mark off the part of the sentence beginning with a conjunction. Copy each sentence and put the comma in the correct place.**

1. Despite being up all night I did not feel tired the next day.
2. Since it was her birthday I let her have the biggest slice of cake.
3. After we checked all the doors were locked we left for our holiday.
4. If we all work together we will finish the project quicker.
5. Before catching the train Owen double-checked his timetable. **(5)**

**TASK TWO: Each sentence contains a list but no commas. Copy the sentences, putting the commas in the correct places**.

1. Everything ached: my back my legs my neck and my head.
2. I bought shoes bags t-shirts and scarves in the New Look sale.
3. The crew came from many countries: Germany France Italy and Greece.
4. The magician asked Laura Lisa Hannah and Kate to be his assistants.
5. Recently, I started growing herbs such as basil chives and parsley. **(5)**

**TASK THREE: Copy the sentences and correctly add in commas to mark off the extra information.**

1. My brother who is a policeman rescued a drowning man.
2. The Channel 4 newsreader Jon Snow wears very bright ties.
3. My brother got the best presents again this Christmas.
4. The storm the worst for 20 years swept away half the village.
5. Walking home from school a 30 minute journey gives Leo time to think.
6. Jennifer my best friend is coming with us on holiday.
7. Mr Sim asked Marc the tallest boy in class to help put up the posters.
8. Mum is in Glasgow for a conference until tomorrow evening.
9. I have seen One Direction my favourite band four times!
10. I always have toast with chocolate spread not jam in the mornings.

**(10)**

**TASK FOUR: Each of the following sentences needs commas but for different reasons. Write the sentence number and the either ‘list’, ‘conjunction’ or ‘extra information’ alongside to show why you think commas are required.**

1. We decorated the hall with balloons bunting and confetti.
2. While cleaning his room Greg found the hat he thought he’d lost.
3. Every summer we go to Pittenwe’em on the Fife coast to visit friends.
4. The subjects I like best are maths French and P.E.
5. Although my brother has passed his driving test he rarely drives.
6. After we finish tea my brother and I do the dishes straight away.
7. I ordered cheesecake the best dessert on the menu for pudding.
8. The school bus passes through Auchmithie Lunan Inverkeilor and Rossie.
9. My French solo talk which I had practiced at home went well.
10. Since the homework on commas I understand when to use them! **(10)**

**TOTAL 30**