

7-9 YEAR OLDS
PUNCTUATION

Here are some notes on the punctuation skills we practised in today's lesson. You will also find an extension activity which you can complete in your own time.

COMMAS

There are lots of different uses for commas. One way we use them is to separate additional, unnecessary bits of information from the rest of the sentence. For example:

- **The weather, thankfully, was starting to clear up.**
- **My dog, who had spent all day lying down, suddenly darted around the house.**

We also use commas when we write lists.

LISTS

We use commas to separate items in a list with more than two elements. For example:

- **The elephant enjoyed playing, eating and sleeping.**
- **My favourite subjects are English, maths, art and PE.**
- **I'm going to read a book, play my violin, sunbathe in the garden and do some exercise today.**

There's another rule we need to remember to write perfect lists. We use a colon (:) to introduce a list when the list is preceded by a complete, independent clause. Just think to yourself, 'Is the bit before the list a complete sentence?'

- **These are my favourite subjects:** English, maths, art and PE.
This is a complete, independent clause. We use a colon before the list.
- **My favourite subjects are** English, maths, art and PE.
This is not a complete, independent clause. We don't use a colon before the list.

TAKEAWAY CHALLENGE

Write 3 lists of your own using the correct punctuation.

- A shopping list
- A 'to do' list
- A list of how to clean & organise your room

Parents - We would love it if you could share your child's work with us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using #exploreathome