

Commas can have a number of roles in a sentence. One important job is to ensure the reader understands the meaning of the sentence. See the example below:

Examples:

He sprang to his feet quickly, realising that someone was at the door.

(He quickly sprang to his feet)

He sprang to his feet, quickly realising that someone was at the door.

(He quickly realised someone was at the door)

Task 1:

- a. Rewrite my sentence adding commas to show that Sarah is saying the girl is crazy:

*Example: **The student, said the teacher, was brilliant.***

The girl said Sarah was crazy.

- b. Rewrite my sentence so the comma comes after the fronted adverbial:

All the time machines are growing stronger.

Task 2:

- a. Insert a comma in the sentence below to indicate that only Sarah and her dad went to the supermarket:

After leaving Grandad Sarah and her Dad went to the supermarket.

- b. Insert a comma in the sentence below to indicate that Sarah and her dad went to the supermarket with Grandad:

After leaving Grandad Sarah and her Dad went to the supermarket.

Task 3:

Explain, for each pair of sentences, how the commas change the meaning. Use my example to help you.

Example:

1. Apples, which are grown without chemicals, are great for cooking.
2. Apples which are grown without chemicals are great for cooking.

In the first sentence, all apples are great for cooking. In the second sentence, only apples grown without chemicals are great for cooking.

1. Rose bushes which are found in the south are brilliant for bees.
2. Rose bushes, which are found in the south, are brilliant for bees.

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The girl, said Sarah, was crazy.

- b. Rewrite my sentence so the comma comes after the fronted adverbial:

All the time machines are growing stronger.

All the time, machines are growing stronger.

Task 2:

- a. Insert a comma in the sentence below to indicate that only Sarah and her dad went to the supermarket:

After leaving Grandad, Sarah and her Dad went to the supermarket.

- b. Insert a comma in the sentence below to indicate that Sarah and her dad went to the supermarket with Grandad:

After leaving, Grandad Sarah and her Dad went to the supermarket.

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1. Rose bushes which are found in the south are brilliant for bees.
2. Rose bushes, which are found in the south, are brilliant for bees.

In the first sentence, only rose bushes found in the south are brilliant for
bees. In second sentence, all rose bushes are brilliant for bees.
