

Commas

The comma is very frequently used. There are four different uses for commas:

1. Listing comma

Use a listing comma in a list whenever you could use 'and' or 'or'. Don't use it anywhere else:

The bands included JLS, N-Dubz and Jedward.

2. Joining comma

Use a joining comma to join two complete sentences with one of the words *and*, *or*, *but*, *yet* or *while*. Do not use a joining comma in any other way:

You must hand your homework in on Friday, or you will receive a detention.

3. Gapping comma

Use a joining comma to show that one or more words have been left out when the missing words would repeat the ones earlier in the sentence:

Italy is famous for its pizza, France, for its pastries.

4. Bracketing comma

This one is used the most often. A **pair** of bracketing commas is used to mark off a weak interruption of the sentence — that is, an interruption which does not disturb the smooth flow of the sentence:

X Factor, it would seem, has changed the face of music forever.