Commence with clauses and phrases – 2

Commas are used to separate two nouns or phrases that refer to the same person.

**Examples:**

*Mrs Hartmann, our deputy principal, is on leave next term.*
(The phrases ‘Mrs Hartmann’ and ‘our deputy principal’ refer to the same person.)

*My best friend, Campbell Hunter, lives in the same street as I do.*
(The phrases ‘my best friend’ and ‘Campbell Hunter’ refer to the same person.)

*Daniel Booth, our local member of parliament, will visit our school on Friday.*
(The phrases ‘Daniel Booth’ and ‘our local member of parliament’ refer to the same person.)

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The placement or omission of a comma in between phrases, clauses (or words) determines the meaning of the sentence. The meaning changes according to the placement.

**Example 1:**

*Let’s eat, Grandma.*

The meaning of the sentence is to inform Grandma that it is time to eat.

*Let’s eat Grandma.*

Without a comma, the sentence means that Grandma is going to be eaten!

**Example 2:**

*Slow, road workers ahead.*

The meaning of the sentence is to slow down as road workers are working up ahead.

*Slow road workers ahead.*

Without a comma, the sentence means the road workers ahead are working at a slow pace!

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Commens used to identify extra information

Commas are used to identify a phrase or clause in a sentence which provides the reader with extra information. If this extra information is taken out, the sentence will still make sense.

1. **Underline the clause or phrase which gives extra information in each of these sentences.**
   
   *Marathons, contested by men and women, are 42.195 kilometer running events.*

   *BMX cycling, as an Olympic sport, was included for the first time at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.*

   *Hockey, an exciting game to play and watch, is contested between two teams of 11 players.*

2. **Use commas to identify the clause or phrase which adds extra information in each of these sentences.**

   *In rhythmic gymnastics contested by women only competitors use handheld apparatus such as a hoop or a ribbon.*

   *Triathlon believed to have been invented in France is an extremely demanding sport.*

   *Butterfly the most tiring swimming stroke is swum facedown.*

3. **Write a clause or phrase, and add commas, to punctuate each sentence.**

   *(a) Weightlifting involved lifting weights on a barbell above the head.*

   *(b) In beach volleyball games are played on a deep sandy base by teams of two players.*

   *(c) The platform diver took off from a height of 10 metres.*

   *(d) In synchronised swimming nose clips are worn to prevent water from entering the nose.*