

# COMMAS IN DATES AND SERIES



**GRADE 1**

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# Classroom Procedure:

1. Display the following. *My baby brother was born on July 1 2019. Jose likes to eat cookies pie and ice cream. And: My baby brother was born on July 1, 2019. Jose likes to eat cookies, pie, and ice cream.* Ask students: What is the same or different about the sentences?
2. Allow for responses and discussion. Ask students: Why are commas used?
3. Allow for responses and discussion. Introduce *Commas in Dates and Series* to the class.
4. Distribute *Commas in Dates and Series* content pages. Read and review the information with the students. Save the final question for the lesson closing. Use the additional resources to enhance understanding.
5. Distribute Activity pages to all students. Pair students. Read and review the instructions. Remind students to they can add their own words using the blanks. Most of the lesson time should be spent with students working on the activity with their partner. Allow time for students to create some different sentences. The words and numbers can be used more than one time. The students will use separate paper to copy the sentences. Circulate through the room as students work.
6. Once completed, allow each pair of students to share some of their sentences along with telling where and why they placed the commas.
7. Distribute Practice page. Check and review the students' responses.
8. Distribute the Homework page. The next day, check and review the students' responses.
9. In closing, ask students: *Can you share one sentence with the class that will include commas in a series and in a date? What is the sentence?*
10. Allow for responses. Students may share their sentences aloud or display them to the class. If aloud, students should say the word *comma* each time the comma appears in the sentence.

**Approximate Grade Level:** 1

## **Objectives:**

The students will be able to use commas in dates and to separate single words in a series.

## **Common Core State Standards:**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.1.2.C

## **Class Sessions (45 minutes):**

1 class session

## **Teaching Materials/Worksheets:**

*Commas in Dates and Series* content pages (2), Activity pages (2), Practice page, Homework page

## **Student Supplies:**

Scissors, writing paper, handouts

## **Prepare Ahead of Time:**

Pair students for the activity, scissors. Copy handouts.

## **Options for Lesson:**

Students may work alone or in groups for the activity. The activity may be done as a class. Students current reading content and identify the use of commas in a series or used with dates; create a list of their use. Conduct a "Comma Bee" and read sentences aloud-students tell the word or number where the commas should follow. Students create 10 sentences without commas, and another student correctly places the commas in the sentences. Students create a poster showing the proper use of commas in dates and in a series of words or phrases.



# Teacher Notes

The lesson introduces students to the use of commas in dates and for a series or list of items in a sentence. Most students are aware of the use of commas in text, but many may not know when to correctly use the comma. The lesson may be used in conjunction with other lessons related to commas.

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# Commas with Dates

Do you know that a comma tells you to pause as you are reading? A comma is a period but with a small hook added to it. A **comma** is a punctuation mark used as a pause between sentences, items in a list, and in other places. One of those other places is for dates.

Dates are often found as part of sentences or are used alone in calendars, date books, and as part of other texts. The date includes the month, the numbered day, and the year. Sometimes a date will also include the day of the week. Commas are used to separate the parts of the dates when both parts are words or both parts are numbers.

	Incorrect	Correct
The date is alone with the year	<i>July 4 1776</i>	<i>July 4, 1776</i>
The day and date in a sentence	<i>My birthday is Friday July 15.</i>	<i>My birthday is Friday, July 15.</i>
Month, date, and year in a sentence	<i>Halloween will be celebrated on October 31 2018.</i>	<i>Halloween will be celebrated on October 31, 2018.</i>
Month, date, year in the beginning or middle of a sentence	<i>October 31, 2018 is the date for Halloween this year.</i>	<i>October 31, 2018, is the date for Halloween this year.</i>
Month and year in a sentence, no comma is needed	<i>October, 2018, is the month of Halloween.</i>	<i>October_2018_is the month of Halloween.</i>

Even though the year is in thousands, a comma is not used as part of the year.



# Commas in a Series

Finally, commas are also used to separate items in a series. For example, when you are listing items you would like to have for a birthday, you might write: *I want my friends, games, cake, and ice cream.*

Notice the commas between the list of items. A series is a list of three or more items, and the last two items are joined by the word *and*, *or*, or *nor*. A series can be individual words or groups of words.

	Incorrect	Correct
Series of single words	<i>Jon's favorite colors are green blue and red.</i>	<i>Jon's favorite colors are green, blue, and red.</i>
Series with groups of words or phrases	<i>I like to spend time on the beach near a lake or along the river.</i>	<i>I like to spend time on the beach, near a lake, or along the river.</i>



**Can you share one sentence with the class that will include commas in a series and in a date?  
What is the sentence?**





Cut apart each of the commas, periods, months, numbers, years, words, and phrases. Join the parts and write the sentences on another sheet of paper. The sentences can be silly.

FOR MY BIRTHDAY, I WANT TO		AND WE WILL SEE	
MY BIRTHDAY IS		IN SCHOOL TODAY, OUR CLASS	
WE ARE GOING ON VACATION		AND I HOPE I CAN	
SEE A MOUNTAIN		RIDE MY BIKE	
SWIM THE OCEAN		GET A FROG	
VISIT FRIENDS		GO TO GRANDMA'S HOUSE	
PIE	ICE CREAM	HAVE	CAKE
BIRDS	SLIME	WATER	GAMES
OR	AND	OR	AND
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL



# Activity

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST	
SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	,	,	,	,	,		?

Use the blanks to add some of your own words.



**Read each sentence. Correctly add commas where they are needed.**

1. I must decide between a cat dog or bird for a pet.
2. Our class studied all about animals the stars of space and different kinds of rocks.
3. The first day of a year in the future will be January 1 2150.
4. I saw a deer in my backyard on October 3 2108.
5. April 15 1865 is an important day in history.
6. The three people who will be at my party are Jayden Logan and Willow.
7. On Wednesday December 26, I will be eleven years old.
8. In our class this week, birthdays will be celebrated on Tuesday Thursday and Friday.
9. July 4 1776 is the date America became its own country.
10. You can decide between no recess a shorter lunch period or staying after school.

**Write your own sentence using the dates or series of words.**

11. red / green / white

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12. September 13 1989

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13. riding a bike / swimming in the pool / playing soccer

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14. potatoes / hamburger / soda / Thursday / June 15 2025

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15. seven / nine / twelve

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**Read the paragraph. Correctly add commas where they are needed.**

*Levi and Terence are twins. They were born on July 6 2011. On the day they were born, grandparents aunts and uncles came to visit the twins at the hospital. For three days, Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday, the two slept most of the time. However, on July 9 2018, the twins arrived home along with their parents brothers and sisters. A party was planned for that evening as well. There was cake to eat songs to sing and babies to hold. It was a fun evening. Once everyone left the house, the twin's brothers and sisters, Jose Lisa Aiden and Mila, took turns holding the little babies. Everyone went to sleep after the long day.*

*On July 6 2012, the children would have their first birthday. Levi's and Terrence's parents could not decide whether to have a big party a small family celebration or a quiet day of peace. Of course, Jose Lisa Aiden and Mila wanted them to have a big party.*

*A party was chosen. It was planned for the week before their birthday. June 2012 is the month of the big party. Everyone was looking forward to it. There would be lots of cake games to play and people everywhere. The two oldest children, Aiden and Mila, were in charge of the games. They planned games such as pin the tail on the donkey relay races and other contests.*

*When everyone arrived on Saturday June 30, they were surprised at how much the twins had grown. The party was a success. Everyone had fun ate lots of food and hoped to see the twins again next year on July 6 2013.*



**Read each sentence. Correctly add commas where they are needed.**

1. I must decide between a cat, dog, or bird for a pet.
2. Our class studied all about animals, the stars of space, and different kinds of rocks.
3. The first day of a year in the future will be January 1, 2150.
4. I saw a deer in my backyard on October 3, 2108.
5. April 15, 1865 is an important day in history.
6. The three people who will be at my party are Jayden, Logan, and Willow.
7. On Wednesday, December 26, I will be eleven years old.
8. In our class this week, birthdays will be celebrated on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
9. July 4, 1776 is the date America became its own country.
10. You can decide between no recess, a shorter lunch period, or staying after school.

**Write your own sentence using the dates or series of words. (will vary)**

11. red / green / white

**The house was painted red, green, and white.**

12. September 13 1989

**My sister was born on September 13, 1989.**

13. riding a bike / swimming in the pool / playing soccer

**Sometimes I like riding a bike, swimming in a pool, or playing soccer.**

14. potatoes / hamburger / soda / Thursday / June 15 2025

**On Thursday, June 15, 2025, I plan on eating potatoes, a hamburger, and a soda.**

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15. seven / nine / twelve

**Seven, nine, and twelve were the points I scored during the last three basketball games.**



**Read the paragraph. Correctly add commas where they are needed.**

*Levi and Terence are twins. They were born on July 6, 2011. On the day they were born, grandparents, aunts, and uncles came to visit the twins at the hospital. For three days, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the two slept most of the time. However, on July 9, 2018, the twins arrived home along with their parents, brothers, and sisters. A party was planned for that evening as well. There was cake to eat, songs to sing, and babies to hold. It was a fun evening. Once everyone left the house, the twin's brothers and sisters, Jose, Lisa, Aiden, and Mila, took turns holding the little babies. Everyone went to sleep after the long day.*

*On July 6, 2012, the children would have their first birthday. Levi's and Terrence's parents could not decide whether to have a big party, a small family celebration, or a quiet day of peace. Of course, Jose, Lisa, Aiden, and Mila wanted them to have a big party.*

*A party was chosen. It was planned for the week before their birthday. June 2012 is the month of the big party. Everyone was looking forward to it. There would be lots of cake, games to play, and people everywhere. The two oldest children, Aiden and Mila, were in charge of the games. They planned games such as pin the tail on the donkey, relay races, and other contests.*

*When everyone arrived on Saturday, June 30, they were surprised at how much the twins had grown. The party was a success. Everyone had fun, ate lots of food, and hoped to see the twins again next year on July 6, 2013.*