



Literacy Lesson 3: Using Commas and Full Stops

*What are **Commas**?*
*What are **Full Stops**?*

A. Commas. In groups of 2 or 3, work out how the meaning of the sentence would change if the comma was deleted. Feedback to the class.

1. *From the Oxford Dictionary definition of a Panda...*

“Eats, shoots and leaves.”

2. *From Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone...*

“Harry, is Lord Voldemort...” began Hermione.

“Yes.” Answered Harry. “Lord Voldemort is alive.”

B. Full Stops.

1. Again, in groups of 2 or 3, take a deep breath and see if you can read to the end of the sentence! **Do you think full stops are an important feature of writing?**

*KS3 Extract from **Skellig** by David Almond:*

I found him in the garage on a Sunday afternoon It was the day after we moved into Falconer Road The winter was ending Mum had said we’d be moving just in time for the spring Nobody else was there Just me The others were inside the house with Doctor Death worrying about the baby He was lying there in the darkness behind the tea chests in the dust and dirt It was as if he’d been there forever He was filthy and pale and dried out and I thought he was dead I couldn’t have been more wrong I’d soon begin to see the truth about him that there’d never been another creature like him in the world

There are **12** missing full stops. There are **3** missing commas. See if you can find out where they should be and put them in. **Feedback to the class.**

KS4 Extract from A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens:

Once upon a time - of all the good days in the year on Christmas Eve - old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house It was cold bleak biting weather; foggy withal and he could hear the people in the court outside go wheezing up and down beating their hands upon their breasts and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them The city clocks had only just gone three but it was quite dark already: it had not been light all day and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole and was so dense without that although the court was of the narrowest the houses opposite were mere phantoms To see the dingy cloud come drooping down obscuring everything one might have thought that Nature lived hard by and was brewing on a large scale

There are **5** missing full stops. There are **13** missing commas. See if you can find out where they should be and put them in. **Feedback to the class.**

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That's all Folks!