

English Activity 4: Commas to Clarify Meaning

1. Tick the sentences with meanings which could be changed with the addition of a comma.

a) She found a mouse trap and cheese all in the bucket as planned.

☐

b) David had said he didn't care.

☐

c) The weather was horrible all day so they stayed in.

☐

d) He asked for money and Lego for his birthday.

☐

e) Don't risk it Grandma

☐

2. Add or remove commas to give these sentences the required meaning.

a) Writing, clearly, isn't easy.

b) Jess likes baking cats and doing ballet.

c) Debbie's heroes are her parents, Spiderman, and Catwoman.

d) Let's eat Grandma.

e) Today I need to buy an apple a banana and two peaches.

3. How do commas affect the meaning of these sentences? Explain briefly for each pair.

a) As the sun shone orange, people looked desperately for shade.

As the sun shone, orange people looked desperately for shade.

b) When he saw the pirate ship on the horizon, the captain sounded the alarm.

When he saw the pirate ship, on the horizon the captain sounded the alarm.
