

Fact sheet - Level 2

Changing meanings with commas

Insert commas into the following sentences where you think appropriate.

1. Slow children crossing.
2. Look at that huge hot dog!
3. Go get him doctors!
4. After we left Grandma Dad and I went to the cinema.
5. James walked on his head a little higher than usual.
6. What is this thing called honey?
7. The student said the teacher is crazy.

Now read the sentences below and discuss with a partner the effect of having the commas in different places.

1. Slow children crossing.
Slow, children crossing.
2. Look at that huge hot dog!
Look at that huge, hot dog!
3. Go get him, doctors!
Go, get him doctors!
4. After we left Grandma, Dad and I went to the cinema.
After we left, Grandma, Dad and I went to the cinema.
5. James walked on, his head a little higher than usual.
James walked on his head, a little higher than usual.
6. What is this thing called honey?
What is this thing called, honey?
7. The student said the teacher is crazy.
The student, said the teacher, is crazy.

Now create three sentences of your own in which a differently placed comma (or commas) changes the meaning of the phrase.