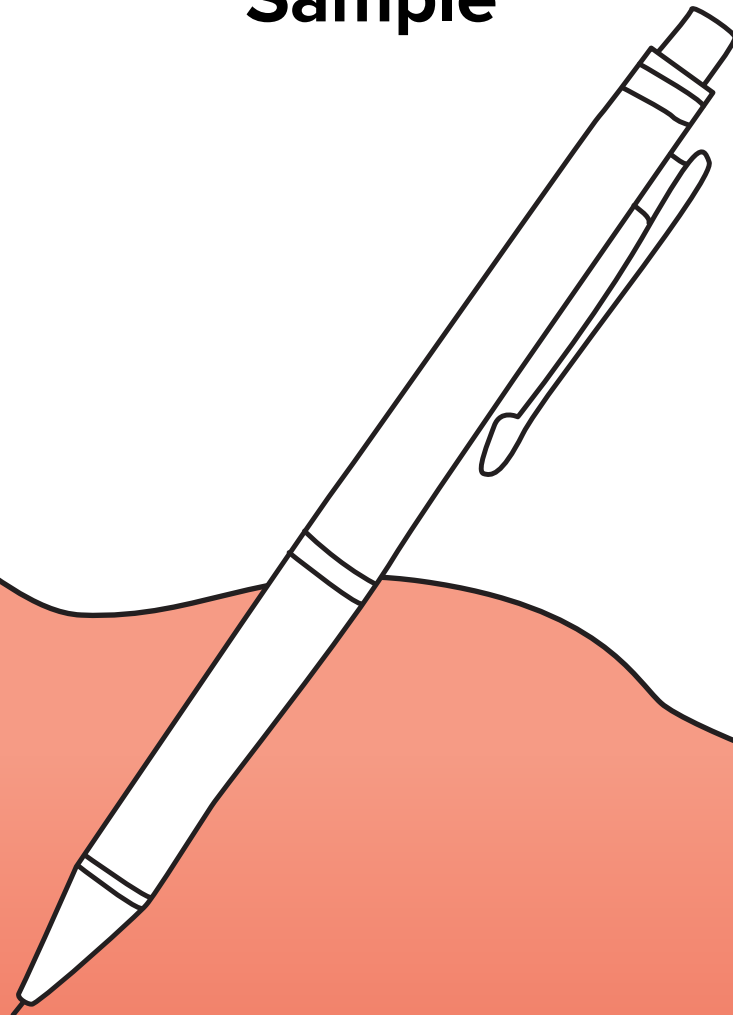


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ANALYTICAL GRAMMAR®

Mechanics
Sample



Lesson 3

Commas—Two Adjectives Tests

Instructor Notes

This lesson can be difficult for some students. Be generous when reviewing their work, and be ready to talk about why answers might be considered “right” or “wrong.”

Lesson 3: Commas—Two Adjectives Tests

The buzzword for this rule is *two adjectives tests*.

A comma should *sometimes* be used between two or more adjectives that come before a noun. It's that *sometimes* that makes us nervous. How are we supposed to know when we need a comma and when we don't? Don't worry—there are a couple of tests you can do to check!

1) “And” test

If it sounds natural to put the word **and** between the adjectives, you need a comma. If adding **and** makes the sentence read less smoothly, leave the comma out.

Example 1: That is a lovely soft fuzzy sweater.

Test: *a lovely **and** soft sweater* Sounds good. We need a comma.

*a soft **and** fuzzy sweater* Sounds good. We need a comma.

The sentence needs two commas:

That is a lovely, soft, fuzzy sweater.

Example 2: I saw a little old man.

Test: *a little **and** old man* Sounds odd. Forget the comma.

The sentence is correct without commas:

I saw a little old man.

2) Order test

Try changing the order of the adjectives. If it still sounds right without changing the meaning, you need commas. Let's use the same example sentences as above to check this test:

Example 1: That is a lovely soft fuzzy sweater.

Test: *a soft lovely fuzzy sweater* Sounds good.

a fuzzy soft lovely sweater Sounds good.

a lovely fuzzy soft sweater Sounds good.

Yes, these all sound just fine, as does any other combination we could come up with. We need commas between the adjectives:

That is a lovely, soft, fuzzy sweater.

Example 2: I saw a little old man.

Test: *an old little man* Sounds odd (to native English speakers)

No, we shouldn't change the order, because it makes the reader stumble over the phrase. No comma should be used.

Two Adjectives Tests: Exercise A

Directions

In each sentence, insert commas where they should go. If the sentence is correct as written, write **correct** below it. Look at the lesson notes if you need help.

Again, be generous when correcting these exercises. Because “sounds right” is a subjective test, students may intentionally not have the same answers as those in the solutions—it may sound right to them. Discuss these answers with your student, and give them credit if they seem to have made a conscious choice about the answer they have given.

- 1) My friends and I went to the enormous, exciting playground near the library.
- 2) Sarah is my friend with long black hair.
correct
- 3) Johnny has freckles and his hair is the color of a ripe, tasty carrot.
- 4) Naomi likes to wear denim overalls with bright, colorful patches on the knees.
- 5) I have the most wonderful, lively group of friends in the world!

Directions

Edit the errors in the following sentences using the editing marks that you have learned. Errors may be from this lesson or from the previous two lessons. There are five errors.

- 6) A good, old group of buddies is a wonderful thing. We like to hang out and, play with each other. We sometimes fight about, silly things. I suppose that happens in all groups of close, friends. We always make up and give each other a sincere, heartfelt apology.

Commas—Two Adjectives Tests: Exercise B

Directions

In each sentence, insert commas where they should go. If the sentence is correct as written, write *correct* below it. Look at the lesson notes if you need help.

- 1) My friends and I had to decide which thrilling, enjoyable thing to do first!
- 2) Bouncy, joyful Sarah decided to start on the trampoline.
- 3) Calm, cool, collected Johnny chose the swings.
- 4) Daring, thrill-seeking Naomi wanted to try the super slide.
- 5) I wanted to do a loud, obnoxious gorilla impression on the monkey bars!

Directions

Edit the errors in the following sentences using the editing marks that you have learned. Errors may be from this lesson or from the previous two lessons. There are five errors.

- 6) We all decided it would be, fun to see who could do the most outrageous, hilarious tricks. Sarah did flips, jumps, and kicks on the trampoline. I hung from the monkey, bars by one leg. Naomi, did a somersault off the end of the slide!

Commas—Two Adjectives Tests: Exercise C

Directions

In each sentence, insert commas where they should go. If the sentence is correct as written, write *correct* below it. Look at the lesson notes if you need help.

- 1) All of a sudden, we felt a cool, blustery wind.
- 2) We could see the dark gray clouds coming toward us.
correct
- 3) It had been such a bright, sunny morning!
- 4) Could there really be a wet, sloppy, soaking rainstorm coming?
- 5) We jumped like frightened, trembling mice when we heard the thunder give a tremendous, deafening crack!

Directions

Edit the errors in the following sentences using the editing marks that you have learned. Errors may be from this lesson or from the previous two lessons. There are five errors.

- 6) Not one of us, had thought to bring an umbrella. We searched around the playground for a table, slide, or roof we could huddle under. There was one little old, picnic table off to one side. We crouched under those splintered, stained, pieces of wood to keep dry.

Commas—Two Adjectives Tests: Assessment

Directions

In each sentence, insert commas where they should go. If the sentence is correct as written, write **correct** below it. Look at the lesson notes if you need help.

Each correctly placed comma is worth one point. If no correction is needed, it is worth one point.

___ 1) Dad's big, shiny, red car drove us to our house.
2

___ 2) The ragtag, dripping kids ran up to the front door.
1

___ 3) We were excited to see four cups of steaming hot chocolate!
1 correct

___ 4) We wrapped towels around our shivering, wet shoulders.
1

___ 5) My friends and I gathered around the table in my warm, comfortable kitchen.
1

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6

Directions

Edit the errors in the following sentences using the editing marks that you have learned. Errors may be from this lesson or from the previous two lessons. There are five errors.

Each corrected error is worth one point.

6) Sarah got us all laughing, giggling, and snorting when she told us we looked like drowned rats. We had warmed up and were now telling funny, knee-slapping jokes to each other. Mom gave us each a chewy, gooey chocolate brownie to go with our hot chocolate.

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3 ASSESSMENT

Directions

In each sentence below, there is a comma split. All of the commas in each sentence and the lines below them are numbered. Identify the comma split and write its number in the space next to the sentence number. On the lines under each, write what the comma is splitting on the appropriate line. For the correctly placed commas, write the comma rule “buzzword” on the numbered line.

Identifying the comma split is worth two points. Identifying what is split and which comma buzzwords apply are worth one point each.

$\frac{\quad}{2}$ $\frac{3}{1}$ 7) Now our tummies were filled, our clothes were dry, and our bodies were, warmed.

$\frac{\quad}{1}$ #1 items in a series

$\frac{\quad}{1}$ #2 items in a series

$\frac{\quad}{1}$ #3 splits linking verb and complement

$\frac{\quad}{2}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ 8) We, had a comical, strange, zany day!

$\frac{\quad}{1}$ #1 splits subject and verb

$\frac{\quad}{1}$ #2 two adjectives tests

$\frac{\quad}{1}$ #3 two adjectives tests

$\frac{\quad}{2}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ 9) I am, lucky to have friends like Sarah, Johnny, and Naomi.

$\frac{\quad}{1}$ #1 splits linking verb and complement

$\frac{\quad}{1}$ #2 items in a series

$\frac{\quad}{1}$ #3 items in a series

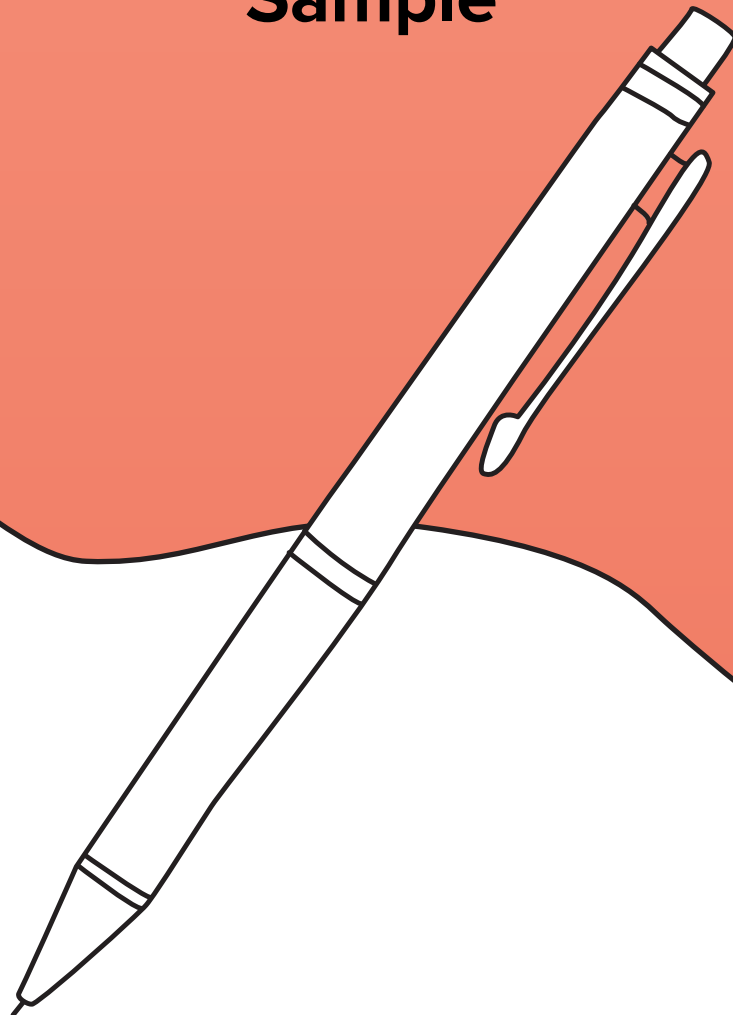
$\frac{\quad}{15}$

$\frac{\quad}{26}$ Total Points $\frac{21}{26} = 80\%$

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Example 2: I saw a little old man.

Test: *an old little man* Sounds odd (to native English speakers)

No, we shouldn't change the order, because it makes the reader stumble over the phrase. No comma should be used.

Two Adjectives Tests: Exercise A

Directions

In each sentence, insert commas where they should go. If the sentence is correct as written, write *correct* below it. Look at the lesson notes if you need help.

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- 3) Johnny has freckles and his hair is the color of a ripe tasty carrot.
- 4) Naomi likes to wear denim overalls with bright colorful patches on the knees.
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Directions

Edit the errors in the following sentences using the editing marks that you have learned. Errors may be from this lesson or from the previous two lessons. There are five errors.

- 6) A good, old group of buddies is a wonderful thing. We like to hang out and, play with each other. We sometimes fight about, silly things. I suppose that happens in all groups of close, friends. We always make up and give each other a sincere heartfelt apology.

Commas—Two Adjectives Tests: Exercise B

Directions

In each sentence, insert commas where they should go. If the sentence is correct as written, write *correct* below it. Look at the lesson notes if you need help.

- 1) My friends and I had to decide which thrilling enjoyable thing to do first!
- 2) Bouncy joyful Sarah decided to start on the trampoline.
- 3) Calm cool collected Johnny chose the swings.
- 4) Daring thrill-seeking Naomi wanted to try the super slide.
- 5) I wanted to do a loud obnoxious gorilla impression on the monkey bars!

Directions

Edit the errors in the following sentences using the editing marks that you have learned. Errors may be from this lesson or from the previous two lessons. There are five errors.

- 6) We all decided it would be, fun to see who could do the most outrageous hilarious tricks. Sarah did flips, jumps and kicks on the trampoline. I hung from the monkey, bars by one leg. Naomi, did a somersault off the end of the slide!

Commas—Two Adjectives Tests: Exercise C

Directions

In each sentence, insert commas where they should go. If the sentence is correct as written, write *correct* below it. Look at the lesson notes if you need help.

- 1) All of a sudden we felt a cool blustery wind.
- 2) We could see the dark gray clouds coming toward us.
- 3) It had been such a bright sunny morning!
- 4) Could there really be a wet sloppy, soaking rainstorm coming?
- 5) We jumped like frightened trembling mice when we heard the thunder give a tremendous deafening crack!

Directions

Edit the errors in the following sentences using the editing marks that you have learned. Errors may be from this lesson or from the previous two lessons. There are five errors.

- 6) Not one of us, had thought to bring an umbrella. We searched around the playground for a table, slide or roof we could huddle under. There was one little old, picnic table off to one side. We crouched under those splintered stained, pieces of wood to keep dry.

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In each sentence, insert commas where they should go. If the sentence is correct as written, write *correct* below it. Look at the lesson notes if you need help.

- 1) Dad's big shiny red car drove us to our house.
- 2) The ragtag dripping kids ran up to the front door.
- 3) We were excited to see four cups of steaming hot chocolate!
- 4) We wrapped towels around our shivering wet shoulders.
- 5) My friends and I gathered around the table in my warm comfortable kitchen.

Directions

Edit the errors in the following sentences using the editing marks that you have learned. Errors may be from this lesson or from the previous two lessons. There are five errors.

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