

SAMPLE LESSON FOR SENTENCE IMITATING

COMMAS IN A SERIES

Quick Explanation:

Commas are used to separate words and ideas. **Commas in a series** separate three or more items such as words, phrases, or clauses.

An effective way to cultivate meaning within a sentence structure is to practice **sentence imitating**. Sentence imitation begins with selecting a **mentor sentence** from a piece of literature or student exemplar for the writer to imitate. The mentor sentence stands as an example to *teach* the writer how to use it to improve conventional grammar skills and develop the writer's craft.

Examples of Items in a Series: Single Nouns

Mentor Sentence: Tabitha likes puppies, kittens, bunnies, and other cute baby animals.

Imitation Sentence: *Steven likes soccer, football, volley ball, and other outdoor sports.*

Invitation to Imitate: (**Subject noun**) likes _____, _____, _____, and other _____.
(2-3 single nouns) (general noun)

Examples of Items in a Series: Single Verbs

Mentor Sentence: Milk was spilled, spit, and sputtered. (*Bedhead*)

Imitation Sentence: *Clothes were thrown, scattered and strewn.*

Invitation to Imitate: (**Noun**) were _____, _____, and _____.
(1st verb) (2nd verb) (3rd verb)

Examples of Items in a Series: Prepositional Phrases

Mentor Sentence: Shuffle- shlump, shlumped bleary-eyed Oliver out of bed, down the hall, and into the bathroom. (*Bedhead*)

Imitation Sentence: *Bing-bang, boomed hunger-crazed Charlie off the school bus, through the front door, and into the kitchen.*

Invitation to Imitate: **Onomatopoeia**, _____,
(verb/adjective/subject noun/1st prepositional phrase)
_____ and _____.
(2nd prepositional phrase) (3rd prepositional phrase)

Examples of Items in a Series: Verb Phrases

Mentor Sentence: "He steals food right off the kitchen counter, chases the neighbor's cats, howls whenever I'm away... and tore my best camel hair coat!" (*Dear Mrs. LaRue*)

Imitation Sentence: *She sneaks Smarties right out of Grandma's purse, hides behind the dining table, ducks whenever Grandma gets close, and devours her favorite sweets!*

Invitation to Imitate: (**Pronoun**) _____, _____, _____ whenever _____
(verb/adverb + prepositional phrase), (verb phrases)
and, _____!

SAMPLE LESSON FOR SENTENCE IMITATING

Combining Sentences to Create Items in a Series

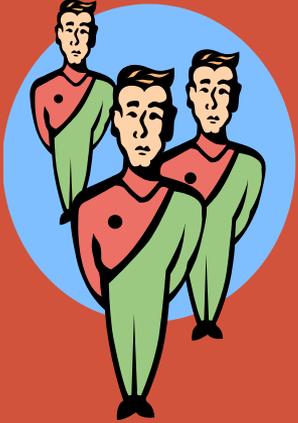
The writer can also combine two or more mentor sentences to create a series of items with commas separating words, phrases, or clauses.

Mentor Sentence: “Hair started going this way. Hair started going that way. Then up. Down. Around and around.” (*Bedhead*)

Imitation Sentence: *Hair started going this way, that way, up, down, and around and around.*

Invitation to Imitate: (***Noun***) _____, _____, _____, and _____.
(***verb phrase***) (prepositions/prepositional phrases)

SAMPLE LESSON FOR SENTENCE IMITATING



Commas
in a
Series



QUICK EXPLANATION

- Commas are used to separate words and ideas. **Commas in a series** separate three or more **items** such as words, phrases, or clauses.
- An effective way to cultivate meaning within a sentence structure is to practice **sentence imitating**. Sentence imitation begins with selecting a **mentor sentence** from a piece of literature or student exemplar for the writer to imitate. The mentor sentence stands as an example to *teach* the writer how to use it to improve conventional grammar skills and develop the writer's craft.

SINGLE NOUNS

Examples of Items in a Series: Single Nouns

- Mentor Sentence: Tabitha likes puppies, kittens, bunnies, and other cute baby animals.
- Imitation Sentence: Steven likes soccer, football, volley ball, and other outdoor sports.
- Invitation to Imitate: (Subject noun) likes _____, _____, _____, and other _____.
(2-3 single nouns) (general noun)

What do you notice?



SINGLE VERBS

Examples of Items in a Series: Single Verbs

- Mentor Sentence: Milk was spilled, spit, and sputtered.
(*Bedhead*)

- Imitation Sentence: *Clothes were thrown, scattered and strewn.*

- Invitation to Imitate: (*Noun*) were _____,
(*1st verb*)

_____, and _____.
(*2nd verb*) (*3rd verb*)



PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

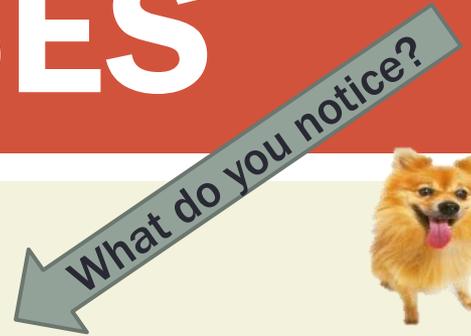
Examples of Items in a Series: Prepositional Phrases



- Mentor Sentence: Shuffle- shlump, shlumped bleary-eyed Oliver out of bed, down the hall, and into the bathroom. (*Bedhead*)
- Imitation Sentence: *Bing-bang, boomed hunger-crazed Charlie off the school bus, through the front door, and into the kitchen.*
- Invitation to Imitate:
(*Onomatopoeia*), _____,
(*verb/adjective/subject noun/1st prepositional phrase*)
_____ and _____.
(*2nd prepositional phrase*) (*3rd prepositional phrase*)

VERB PHRASES

Examples of Items in a Series: Verb Phrases



- **Mentor Sentence:** “He steals food right off the kitchen counter, chases the neighbor’s cats, howls whenever I’m away... and tore my best camel hair coat!” (*Dear Mrs. LaRue*)

What do you notice?

- **Imitation Sentence:** *She sneaks Smarties right out of Grandma’s purse, hides behind the dining table, ducks whenever Grandma gets close, and devours her favorite sweets!*

- **Invitation to Imitate:** (*Pronoun*) _____,
(*verb/adverb + prepositional phrase*)
_____, _____ whenever _____ and _____!
(*verb phrases*)

COMBINING SENTENCES TO CREATE ITEMS IN A SERIES

The writer can also **combine** two or more mentor sentences to create a **series of items** with commas separating words, phrases, or clauses.

■ Mentor Sentences → ■ Items in a Series

- “Hair started going this way.
Hair started going that way.
Then up. Down.
Around and around.”
(*Bedhead*)

- *Hair started going this way, that way, up, down, and around and around.*



COMBINING SENTENCES TO CREATE ITEMS IN A SERIES

Invitation to Imitate:



(Noun) _____, _____, _____ **and** _____
(verb phrase) (prepositions/prepositional phrases)