

Tutor notes for Module 3

Developing your writing



Module 3: Developing your writing, Section A, Challenge 1

Challenge title	Develop your grammar		
Challenge	<p>Create a lesson for students on how to use the comma. This lesson should include examples of using the comma in all of its uses and a way to remember how to use them.</p> <p>The lesson could be presented as a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint presentation • animation • short video • handout • poster 		
Learning aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reinforce grammar rules for students • To encourage students to consider the importance of purpose in writing • To improve students' confidence with varying their sentence structures 		
Challenge ref.	3A1	Challenge time	approx. 2.5 hours
Skills	Considering audience; Increasing vocabulary; Using structure for effect		

Suggested approach

Students will probably need help in identifying the rules of comma use. Use of commas for parenthesis and listing is more straightforward, but the use of commas in complex sentences is the most important rule. Many students will still think that the comma is placed wherever there is a natural pause and this assumption is the cause for much inaccuracy in their use. There are lots of online and reference resources that explain comma use (see below).

Students should start by researching and summarising the rules. Tutors should check this with them prior to creating the resources.

Plagiarism is a concern here as spelling and grammar resources and lessons are abundant on the internet, so tutors may wish to limit students' access to the internet after their research on the correct use of the comma is complete.

Suggested resources

The following learner resources are provided for this challenge:

- Challenge walkthrough 3A1

Useful websites:

- The Oxford English Dictionary guidelines on comma use, although this promotes the use of serial commas (often called Oxford commas): <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/punctuation/comma>
- BBC Skillswise offers a factsheet on comma use. This is aimed at adult learners but is very concise: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/factsheet/en29punc-l1-f-when-to-use-commas>
- GCSE Bitesize has lots of different resources that explain how to use commas correctly, such as: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zqsyvcw/revision/2>