

I woke up to this piercing, wailing sound. It wasn't a sound I had ever heard before. It was loud and deep (not like a car or a house alarm), and the pitch rose and fell. It sent a shiver down my back. I ran across the landing to mum's room. Her bed had been slept in, but there was no sign of her. I ran into Joe's room, but he wasn't in his bed either. It was now that I realised how very dark it was in his room, much darker than normal. I flicked the switch for the light, but nothing happened. I went back onto the landing and tried the landing light. Again nothing! It must be a power cut! Even the pale yellow glow from the street light, which normally seeped through the landing window, wasn't visible. The whole estate must be without power. I carefully tiptoed down the stairs in the gloom. I was surprised to feel bare wooden boards against my cold, slipperless feet.



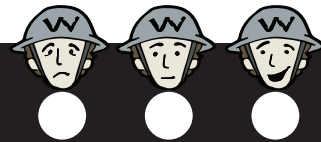
When I reached the living room, I groped to find the light switch. I wasn't surprised to find it didn't work either. The room was darker and gloomier than upstairs, but I noticed straightaway that, where there should have been the outline of our fifty-inch plasma television, there was now just bare wall. We had been burgled! That wailing sound must have been our burglar alarm after all! Then I panicked, wondering what else had been stolen. At this point, I remembered my mobile and began fumbling about in the drawer of the dresser. I was relieved when I felt the smooth, shiny surface of the screen in my hand. Within seconds I had put the mobile on torch function. I shone the bright beam across the room. What I saw made me shudder. This wasn't our room. This wasn't our house! The doors, the windows, they were all in the same place, but everything else had changed. The walls were covered in a strange patterned wallpaper I had never seen before, and our comfy leather sofa had been replaced by a small, old-fashioned settee made of some dull brown fabric. What sort of burglar would replace the furniture they had stolen?

Then my attention was drawn away from the room to the phone itself. Numbers kept flashing on the screen, only to be replaced almost immediately by others. On closer inspection I realised that the numbers were going backwards: they were decreasing each time. It slowed down and eventually stopped at 19:40. I wasn't very good at the twenty-four hour clock, but this didn't seem right to me. I guessed it to be sometime in the early hours of the morning. Then, before I had the chance to figure it out, there was a massive explosion which sent thousands of little shards of glass from the window hurtling through the air. I was hurled forward and the mobile was flung from my grasp. I don't know how long I was down for, but when I recovered I was being dragged by my arm by a man in a dark blue uniform. "My phone!" I cried, but he didn't seem to hear me.





Name: _____



I can use paired adjectives and commas with coordinating adjectives.

A **comma** should be used to separate two or more **coordinating adjectives**.

I woke up to this piercing, wailing sound.

Both the adjectives describe the noun **sound**.

But some adjectives modify the adjective before it. These adjectives don't need commas in between.

He wore a dark blue uniform.

There is no comma between dark and blue. Dark modifies the colour **blue**.

As always, there are rules and there are exceptions to these rules. However, the easiest way to decide which adjectives should have commas between them and which shouldn't is to swap the adjectives around and see if it still sounds right.

I woke up to this wailing, piercing sound. (That still sounds okay.)

He wore a blue dark uniform. (That doesn't sound right!)

So, if the adjectives can be reversed, they should be coordinating adjectives and they need a comma between them. If they can't be reversed without it sounding odd, they are not coordinating adjectives and there is no need for a comma between them.

Decide whether the following adjectives should have commas between them. (The adjectives have been written in bold to help you.)

- 1 There was broken glass everywhere, and it cut into my **bare slipperless** feet.
- 2 I let out a **pathetic little** whimper of pain.
- 3 The man took me up in his **big powerful** arms and carried me across the rubble and broken glass.
- 4 He was wearing a **large metal** helmet.
- 5 The **loud wailing** siren was joined by a whole series of frightening noises.
- 6 **Deafening earth-trembling** roars exploded all around me.
- 7 From somewhere up above I was aware of a **low constant** drone of engines.
- 8 A **loud shrill** whistle echoed on the building opposite.
- 9 **Distressing human** cries could be heard coming out of **open bedroom** windows.
- 10 In the distance, rooftops and church spires were silhouetted against a **flaming red** sky.
- 11 **Large bright elongated** triangles of light swept the night sky.
- 12 Searchlights picked out **small black** objects falling out of the sky.



Extension Write your own sentences with paired adjectives using commas where needed.



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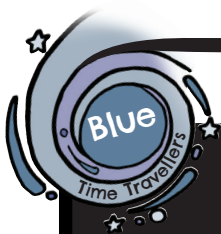
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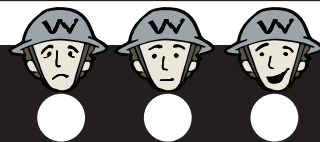
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