

I was struggling to comprehend what was happening, but one thing was certain: Manchester was under some kind of attack! Maybe that was why Mum had been so keen to see the news the evening before. Now I felt guilty for not having paid attention. If I had shown more interest, maybe we could have escaped before the attack began. Or maybe Mum and Joe had left me because I wouldn't listen to them. A hundred thoughts ran through my head, very few of them making any sense.

"They didn't give us much warning that time, did they son?" said the man in the uniform. "Come on! I'll take you to the public shelter."

I didn't know what public shelter he was talking about, and I couldn't understand why he referred to the warning as "that time". That would imply that it had happened on another occasion, and I knew that that wasn't the case. I was trying to puzzle this out, and at the same time, keep up with the uniformed man as he strode down the street. I tried to picture where I had seen his uniform before, but what with the noise, the confusion and the commotion my memory drew a blank. I suppose I should have been more frightened than I was, but everything was going so fast and was so confusing I didn't really have time to feel scared – just bewildered! We reached a flight of steps that led underground. I thought it odd that I hadn't noticed these steps before; I had lived practically all my life in Hulme.

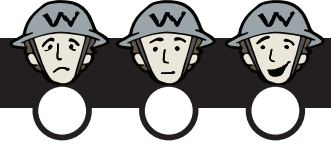
"I'll leave you here," he said turning towards me and, for the first time, I noticed a large letter W painted on his helmet. "You'll be safe in here! I expect you'll find the rest of your family now." He patted me on my head and smiled, but there was a sadness in his eyes. Then he turned and ran back down the street towards a building that was on fire. I watched him go. We were not a hundred metres from my house, just round the corner from the chippy where we would get our Friday tea, yet I could hardly recognise any of the buildings. Then again, everything was in darkness, apart from the light from the explosions and the fires, and the searchlights sweeping across the night sky. I was totally disorientated, and I put it down to a trick of the light.

Hesitantly, I began to climb down the steps of the underground shelter. I had no idea what I would find when I reached the bottom, but the man had suggested I would be safe and, even though I had only just met him, I trusted him. As I got towards the bottom of the steps I could make out hushed voices. They sounded friendly enough. I peered round an open doorway and discovered that I was in some sort of tunnel. It seemed that everyone stopped talking when they saw me enter. The chamber was only dimly lit, but I could just about make out all these eyes looking at me. I was suddenly very conscious that I was wearing my pyjamas – my Superman pyjamas.





Name: _____



I can use commas before conjunctions.

Commas will normally go before a conjunction that links two **independent clauses** (main clauses).

FANBOYS are the **coordinating conjunctions** which need a comma.

Gavin liked to watch television, but he preferred to play on his PlayStation.

However, there are times when you don't need a comma.

Drew played Clash of Clans and Call of Duty.

The conjunction doesn't link two clauses, just two items in a list, so it doesn't need a comma.

If the two clauses are short, even though they are main clauses, they don't necessarily need a comma.

Joe took the remote and gave it to Mum.

Subordinating conjunctions do not need commas because they link a **main clause** with a **dependent clause** (subordinating clause).

Some of the conjunctions (written in bold) need commas before them. Put in the commas where they are needed.

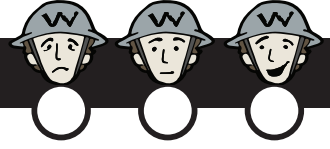
- 1 My eyes slowly became accustomed to the dim light **and** I was able to make out more than a hundred people lying down in the tunnel.
- 2 They stared at me for a moment **before** they returned to their various activities.
- 3 Some were playing cards **while** others read **or** tried to sleep.
- 4 Most were fully clothed **though** some were in pyjamas **and** dressing gowns.
- 5 I didn't believe Mum **and** Joe would be down there **yet** I didn't think it would hurt to look.
- 6 I wandered down the tunnel looking at the anxious faces of parents **and** the frightened faces of children **until** I reached the end.
- 7 An old man looked up **and** smiled when I passed by.
- 8 I started to make my way back up the tunnel **since** there was no sign of Mum **or** Joe.
- 9 I paid more attention to what the people were wearing **as** I made my way back up the tunnel.
- 10 Nobody was wearing tracky bottoms **nor** could I see a single pair of trainers.
- 11 All the girls **and** the women (who weren't in their dressing gowns) were either wearing frocks **or** kneelength skirts.
- 12 The boys were wearing long shorts **and** socks **and** most of the men were in jackets **or** suits.
- 13 I laughed out loud **for** I suddenly realised what was going on.

Extension Underline the conjunctions in the passage and take note if they are preceded by a comma or not.





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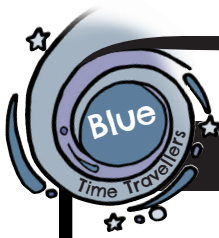
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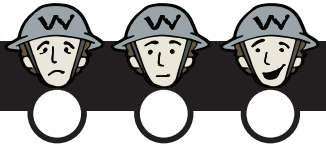
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