

We passed, what would have been, an enjoyable evening with Dr McKenna and his wife had I not been so anxious about my plans to run away. After tea we played with Tess and, when Dr McKenna had finished his work, we played cards, snakes and ladders, and draughts. Then we listened to a comedy programme on the wireless, which was called *It's that Man Again*, and Dr McKenna roared with laughter. The McKennas then left the room to make themselves a drink. Kenneth excused himself and I heard him climbing the stairs. When he didn't return, I became suspicious.

Anxiously, I ran upstairs and found him in our bedroom on the point of unlocking the other suitcase.

"Don't!" I shouted. "You mustn't! It's private." But it was too late. He had opened the lid. He stared in disbelief at the second set of clothes in the case.

"What are you doing with these?" he asked.

"It's just a disguise," I answered, "in case I need to escape."

"What? You're prepared to wear these?" he asked in amazement.

"If I have to," I replied.

"You're weird!" he said in response. He stood in silence for a moment before walking out in disgust. I wasn't sure whether I should follow him, or leave him to his thoughts. In the end, I decided to stay in the room and get ready for bed. I pulled the stripy pyjama top over my head before taking off my school trousers and putting on my pyjama bottoms. I got under the covers just as Kenneth returned. He pulled out the superman pyjamas from where they were neatly folded under the pillow. "I don't want these anymore. You can have them back," he said angrily.

"Do you want to swap back now?" I asked. He considered this for a moment.

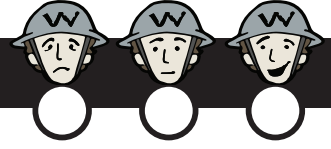
"No!" he decided. "We'll swap back after they've been washed. I don't want to catch your germs!" This upset me a great deal, but I tried not to show it. I turned my back on him, and pretended to go to sleep. In reality, my brain was in overdrive and I couldn't stop thinking about the events of the last few days. I wondered whether Kenneth had guessed my secret, or whether he had accepted my explanation. I must have eventually drifted off to sleep, for I was suddenly woken by Kenneth tugging at my bedsheets.

"Drew, wake up," he whispered hoarsely. "There's some sort of dog fight." In my innocence I thought he meant an actual fight between dogs. The term he used meant, of course, an aerial combat between two fighter planes. "It's a Spitfire chasing off a Messerschmitt over RAF Handforth," he announced with certainty, as we looked out of the bedroom window into the night sky. "I told you we were in the middle of two important RAF bases!"





## I can use commas to clarify meaning.



**Commas** can be quite tricky to use at times. However, here are the five main cases when a comma is needed:

*\*for lists* **The case contained spare pants, socks, a cardigan and one surprising item.**

*\*in direct speech* **Kenneth asked, "But why have you got this?"**

*\*to separate clauses* **He had been loyal to Drew, but this was a big test of his loyalty.**

*\*to separate extra information* **He dropped the garment, which he hadn't expected to see, back in the case.**

*\*after fronted adverbials* **Confused and bewildered, he left the room.**

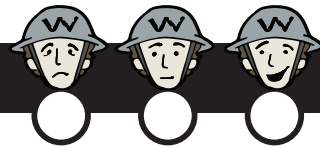
**Put commas in the right place within the sentences. (There are hints in the brackets to help you.)**

- 1 We watched in silence as the two planes swooped dived turned and rolled in an attempt to outmanoeuvre each other. (2 commas for a list)
- 2 Sometimes the planes would disappear behind a cloud before reappearing their machine guns spitting fire into the night sky. (1 comma for a clause)
- 3 "Look! One of the planes has been hit" Kenneth said. (1 comma for speech)
- 4 Kenneth thought it was the Messerschmitt that was trailing fire but I couldn't tell one from the other. (1 comma for a clause)
- 5 Suddenly the plane on fire took a nose dive and headed towards the ground. (1 comma for a fronted adverbial)
- 5 The plane disappeared behind a hill that was some distance away before exploding in a ball of fire. (2 commas for extra information.)
- 6 Kenneth shouted "Look! The pilot is parachuting to safety!" (1 comma for speech)
- 7 It was difficult to see but I could just make out the silhouette of a parachute against the dark night sky. (1 comma for a clause)
- 8 With bated breath we watched the pilot land only a few fields away from the house. (1 comma for a fronted adverbial)
- 10 "Come on! Let's investigate" said Kenneth bursting with excitement. (1 comma for speech)
- 11 In a flash he had pulled his school trousers over his pyjama bottoms. (1 comma for a fronted adverbial)
- 12 "Just get something on your feet" he urged me. (1 comma for speech)
- 13 We hastily put on our trousers socks and shoes. (1 comma for a list)
- 14 We raced down the stairs which we took two at a time landing noisily in the hall. (2 commas for extra information)
- 15 We struggled to open the back door which had been double bolted and headed in the direction of the fallen airman. (2 commas for extra information)

**Extension** In the passage find at least one example of each of the five uses of a comma.



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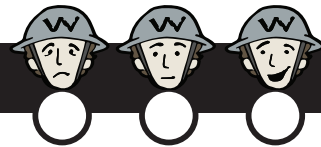
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