

Mini-Lesson: Commas

Level: 6 - 12

Class Size: n/a

Unit: n/a

Time Needed: 25 minutes

Sequence In Unit: n/a

Classroom Composition: n/a

Stage 1: Identify Desired Results

a. Enduring Understandings

- **Goal:** The learners should acquire a firmer understanding of the uses of the comma.
- **Objectives:**
 - The learners will review the eight common rules of commas.
 - The learners will practice placing commas in the appropriate areas over a variety of sentences.
- **Connections to the Maine Learning Results**
 - English Language Arts, Grades 6 - 8 D2 (Language - Mechanics)
 - a. “Use correct capitalization and punctuation to include commas and semi-colons.”
 - English Language Arts, Grades 9 - Diploma D2 (Language - Mechanics)
 - a. “Use appropriate punctuation, spelling, sentence and paragraph structure to suit purpose, *context*, and audience.”

b. Essential Questions

- What are the eight common rules of commas?

c. Knowledge and Skills

- Students have previously been taught material on commas. This is more of a review lesson.

Stage 2: Determine Acceptable Evidence

d. Performance Tasks

Students will do a quick worksheet in class.

e. Quizzes, Tests, Prompts

n/a

f. Unprompted Evidence

The teacher will observe whether or not students are cooperating within their pairs and will keep track of who has spoken up in class discussion.

g. Self Assessment

Students will have a chance to ask questions to check clarification and will also be

doing a homework assignment that will also allow them to see whether or not they understand the different uses of the comma.

Stage 3: Plan Learning Experiences and Instruction

h. Sequence of Learning Experience/Instruction

1. Have an over-head copy of the “Eight Common Commas” on the overhead. Once students are settled, hand out the worksheet for them to quickly do. (5 minutes)
2. Unveil the rules one at a time, as they coincide with the questions. Make sure that everyone in the class has a firm understanding of the correct placement of the commas. (15 minutes)
3. As students are passing their papers forward, hand out a copy of the overhead to each student. Make sure that they note that this is for their reference during editing. (5 minutes)

i. Materials and Resources

- Overhead of the “Eight Common Commas”
- Handouts of the “Eight Common Commas”
- Copies of the worksheet.