Commas

A comma looks like this **,**

A comma tells a reader to take a short pause when they are reading but not as long as a full stop.

Practice reading out loud with the following paragraph, thinking about what to do when you reach a full stop or a comma.

**The parrot was bright, blue and beautiful. He had green wings, a silver beak and yellow feet.**

Commas have lots of uses in English – today we will be looking at how commas are used to separate items on a list.

A list is a collection of items, words or phrases. We could do this using ‘and’ to link all the items together but there are problems with this. Read the list below loud:

**Dear Santa, for Christmas I would like a bike and a laptop and a dog and da horse and a teddy bear and a building brick set and a pencil sharpener and a trumpet.**

Could you get to the end of the sentence without running out of breath? Did the sentence sound nice?

Replacing the ‘and’s with commas will give your reader a pause for breath and give your sentence much more character. Always use ‘and’ just before the last item in the list, to finish your sentence correctly e.g. “the superhero wore a cape, gloves, a mask and boots.”