



We are **St Cuthbert's**



St Cuthbert's
Catholic High School

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Punctuation Practice

Commas 1



Commas are tiny, but they are VERY important!

They have a range of uses which can be tricky to get right. Over the next two weeks, we will focus on the different ways in which we use commas.

This week – lists and joining ideas.

Commas in Lists

Put commas between the items in a list

A list that doesn't contain commas is really difficult to understand:

I like roast chicken pizza ice cream and chips.

This makes it sound like the ice cream is 'roast chicken and pizza' flavour!

I like roast chicken, pizza, ice cream and chips.

The commas here have separated the items so that they don't get mixed up together. Notice you use 'and' for the final item and you don't need a comma for that.

Commas in Lists

Put commas between the items in a list

We also need a comma to separate two adjectives next to each other which could be separated by 'and'.

He was a cruel **and** ruthless king.

The comma here
is used in place
of the word
'and'.

He was a cruel, ruthless king.

If you wouldn't put the word 'and' in between the adjectives, then you don't need a comma. For example, 'A light green jumper'.

Commas to combine two points

Some connectives need a comma to go with them

The connectives which usually need a comma are:

For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet and So

We call these the
'FANBOYS' sentences.

When any of these words are used to connect two ideas, the comma shows where the next point begins:

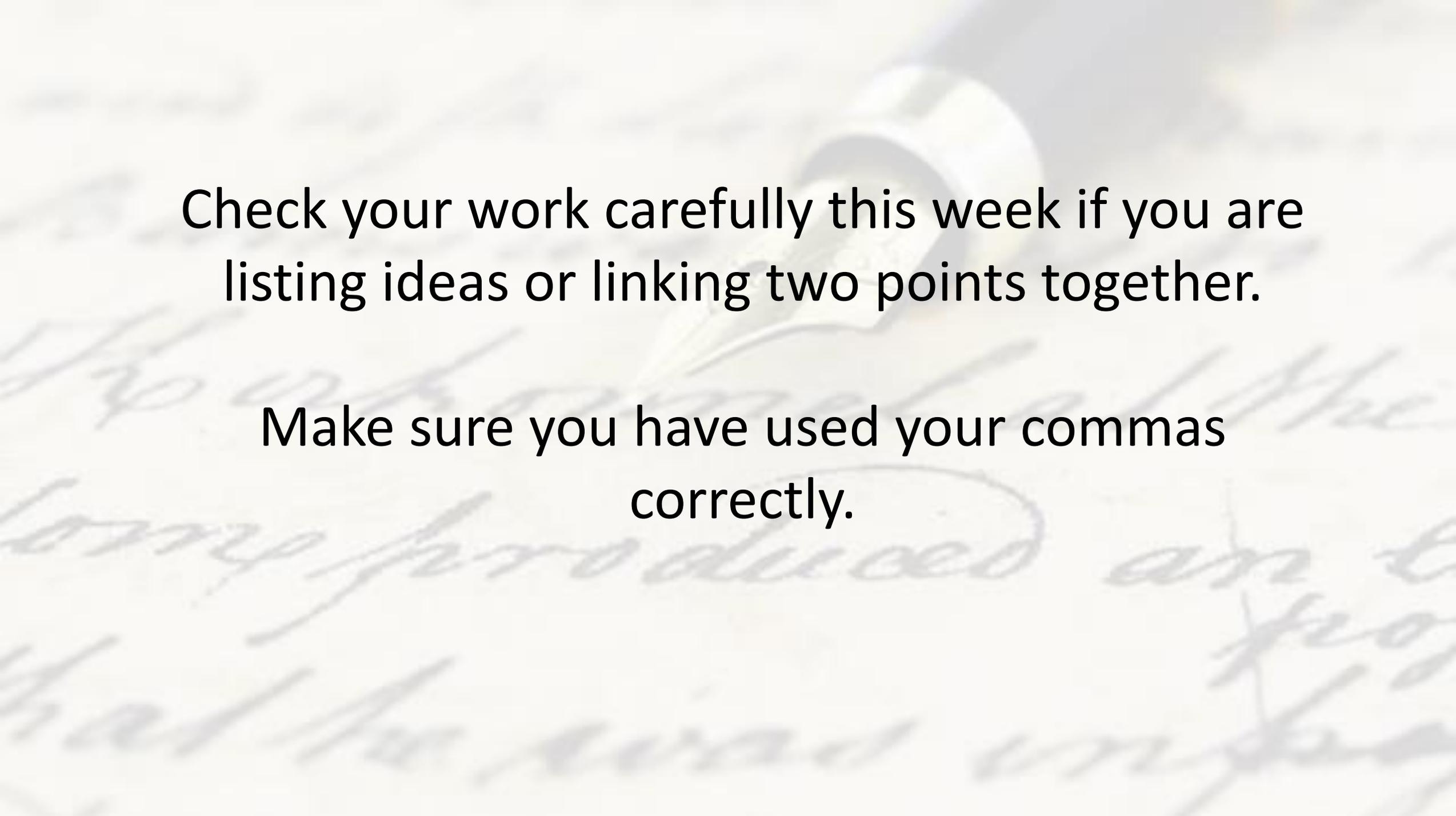
The sun is lower in the sky, so its heat is spread over more of the Earth's surface.

Commas to combine two points

Some connectives need a comma to go with them

In addition, longer linking words/phrases like 'however', 'therefore' and 'nevertheless', are also followed by a comma when they are at the start of a sentence.

However, Mrs Johnstone is one of the most likeable characters in the play.



Check your work carefully this week if you are listing ideas or linking two points together.

Make sure you have used your commas correctly.

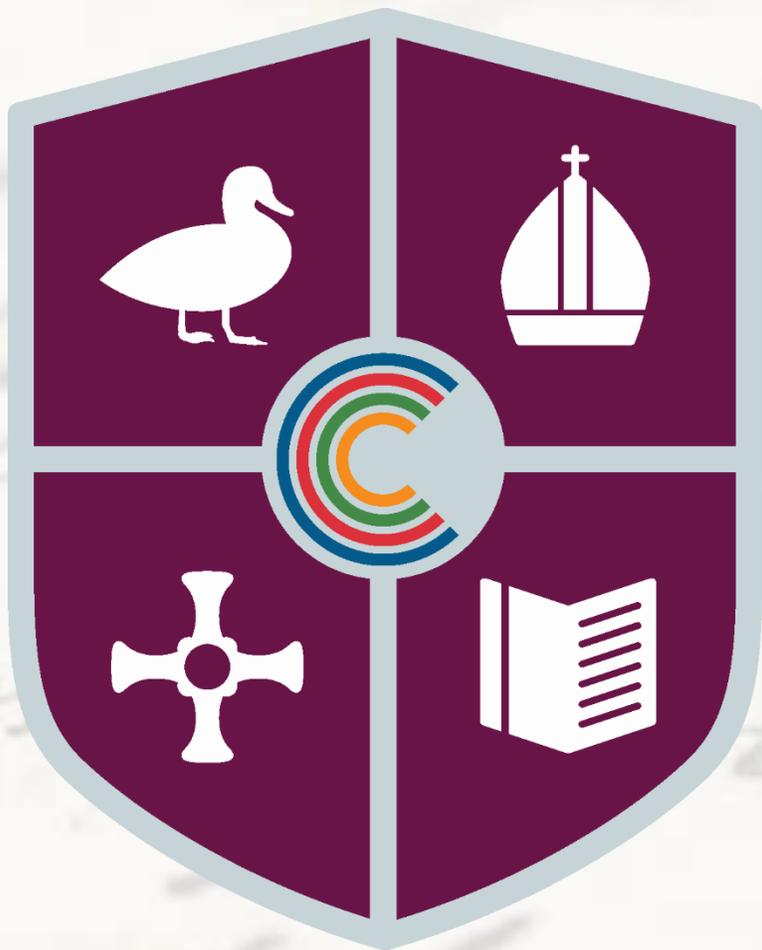


**KEEP
CALM**

AND

REMEMBER YOUR

PUNCTUATION



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