Commas in lists

Commas in lists

Sally bought some bread rolls and some lettuce and some cheese.

Sally bought some bread rolls, some lettuce and some cheese.

We use commas to separate items in lists.

Commas in lists



Sally bought some bread rolls, some lettuce, and some cheese.



Sally bought some bread rolls, some lettuce and some cheese.

We use a comma to seperate items or we use "and" - never both.

Commas in lists



Jeremy's favourite desserts were: ice cream, cake and rice pudding.



Jeremy had three favourite desserts: ice cream, cake and rice pudding.

A colon can be used to introduce a list - but only if it follows a complete clause.

Commas in lists

Ernie was a strong, muscular man.

We also use commas in lists of adjectives.

Sometimes we use semi-colons in lists.

On stage were Bob, the vicar; Sarah, the flower seller; Tony, the policeman; and Oscar, the burglar.

Can you work out why the semi-colons have been used?

Sometimes we use semi-colons in lists.

On stage were Bob, the vicar, Sarah, the flower seller, Tony, the policeman and Oscar, the burglar.

If we used commas, it would not be clear who is on stage!

Sometimes we use semi-colons in lists.

On stage were Bob, the vicar; Sarah, the flower seller; Tony, the policeman; and Oscar, the burglar.

We interviewed the striker, who is also the team captain; the goalkeeper; and the defender.

If a comma is needed to separate extra information, semi-colons must be used to separate items in the list.