



Name _____

Period ____

GRAMMAR NINJA

COMMAS W/ INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

→ **Directions: First, label the subject and verb. Then, insert the missing commas where they belong in the sentence.**



NINJA SAYS: When using introductory information at the beginning of the sentence, separate it with a comma.



ADVERBS

1. Naturally ninjas are born with very quiet footsteps.
2. Strangely enough it is hard for mothers to hear baby ninjas crying.
3. Furthermore fathers cannot even hear their ninja children picking on each other.



NINJA SAYS: If your sentence begins with a prepositional phrase of four or more words, separate it with a comma.



PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES (4+ WORDS)

4. In the middle of the night the best ninjas can sleep and sneak through the city at the same time.
5. Across the steep rooftops bare-footed ninjas softly tip-toe.
6. At the break of dawn a woman said that she saw three ninjas walking on the ceiling.



NINJA SAYS: If your sentence begins with a prepositional phrase of only two or three words, separate it with a comma if the meaning would be unclear without the comma.



PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES (2 or 3 WORDS)

7. In English the plural of ninja can be either unchanged as *ninja* or the regular English plural *ninjas*.
8. For your safety ninja sensors should be installed around your house, even though they probably won't do any good.

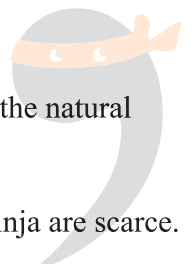


NINJA SAYS: If your sentence begins with a subordinate clause, separate it with a comma.



SUBORDINATE (DEPENDENT) CLAUSES

9. Because the ninja stories held rumors of invisibility, walking on water, and control over the natural elements western popular culture believed the legends and folklore.
10. Even with so many popular folktales told around the world historical accounts of the ninja are scarce.





GRAMMAR NINJA

COMMAS W/ APPOSITIVES

→ **Directions:** Circle the simple appositive one time, and underline the appositive phrase. Then, insert missing commas where they belong in the sentence.



NINJA SAYS: An appositive is a noun or pronoun placed after another noun or pronoun that renames the preceding word. Separate it with commas before and after. **NOTE:** it can be a bunch of words.

“Scott the Scaredy Ninja” by Jonathan Stephens

1. Scott the last warrior Aratu Sasuke wanted to call was the only one answering his ninja phone.
2. Scott despised his nickname the Scaredy Ninja.
3. Aratu hated how scared Scott was all the time.
4. Reluctantly, Aratu gave him the assignment a daring mission to invade the comic book store.
5. A legendary manga novel the one written by the great father Sarutobi Sasuke had been stolen from the sacred ninja vaults.
6. Scaredy Scott hung up the phone and searched under the bed for his best tool a set of foam nunchucks.
7. He found them and gave them a few practice whips through his bedroom air cold particles that made the scaredy hairs on his forearms stand up.
8. He tied his mask a thick green strap over his eyes and let out a practice grunt.
9. Then he slipped out into the night a chilly and ominous evening and ran across the rooftops.
10. This mission made him very afraid for his life.

→ **Directions:** Now, let's practice with paragraphs, which is a much more real life example of when you're going to need to get all this comma stuff correct. Insert the missing commas where they belong.

In the dark the comic book store brought an ancient memory to him one of his relatives fighting at the great Osaka Castle. He forced himself to climb the rain gutter with his bare feet little nubs that the other ninjas made fun of. He located the security alarm a gray metal box at the back of the building and whack-attacked it with his foam nunchucks. His tools helped him carve a clean circle in the large glass window, and he slipped through the hole an opening almost as tall as his body.

As he slipped stealthily through the dark store, his feet barely made noises no tiptoes or thuds. The shelves were lined with collectibles action figures and comic books but he didn't stop for any of those. He crept to the back room an office with one strong shelf over the desk and stared at the glass case protected by lasers. With lightning-fast ninja speed, his fingers darted between the lasers and sliced the glass a much thinner pane than the outside window. He slashed and slashed until he watched the case his last obstacle fall to the floor. Then he reached in and grabbed the manga his prize. He had done it. Scott the ninja everyone thought was such a scaredy had done it.



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GRAMMAR NINJA

COMMAS W/ DIRECT ADDRESS

→ **Directions: Insert the missing commas where they belong in the sentence.**



NINJA SAYS: When the start of a sentence says someone's name because you're speaking to that person, put a comma after the name to separate it from the sentence.



DIRECT ADDRESS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SENTENCE

1. "Ninja Ethan would you please break this board with your mind?"
2. "Master Manabu that's impossible."
3. "Little Ninja you are not ready to tell me what is impossible."



NINJA SAYS: When the middle of a sentence says someone's name because you're speaking to that person, put a comma before and after the name to separate it from the sentence.



DIRECT ADDRESS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SENTENCE

4. "It's hard for me to believe you Supreme Master because I've never been able to do it."
5. "I've barely even seen someone Master Sensei who could break the board, period."
6. "You will Ethan Veraju soon do greater things than I."
7. So Ninja Ethan and Master Manabu dear reader traveled to the Foggy Forest.

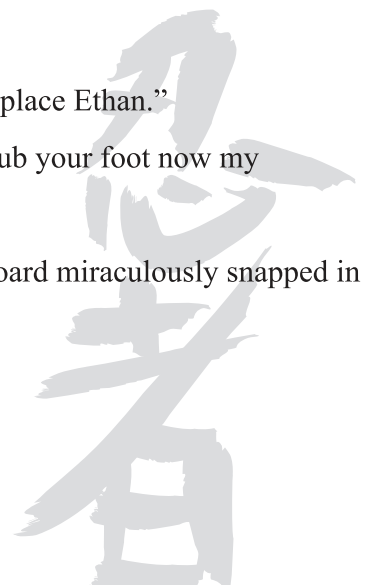


NINJA SAYS: When the end of a sentence says someone's name because you're speaking to that person, put a comma before the name to separate it from the sentence.



DIRECT ADDRESS AT THE END OF THE SENTENCE

8. Deep in a forest glen, the Master stopped the student and said, "Here is the place Ethan."
9. With his mind, Master carved a board from a nearby tree and held it up. "Rub your foot now my disciple."
10. Ethan rubbed it, imagined himself kicking the tree, and in an instant the board miraculously snapped in half. He stood in awe. "I can't believe it Master."





GRAMMAR NINJA

COMMAS BETWEEN ADJECTIVES

→ **Directions:** Insert the missing commas where they belong in the sentence.

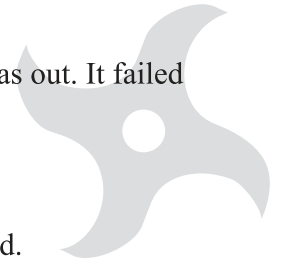


NINJA SAYS: Use commas to separate adjectives that are equal in rank or power. **NOTE:** If you can switch their order and the sentence still reads fine, then they're equal.



ADJECTIVES OF EQUAL POWER

1. The legendary mysterious Great Wall of China was originally created to keep ninjas out. It failed miserably.
2. Ninjas can win a game of Connect Four in only three skillful tricky moves.
3. When ninjas fall into cold refreshing water, ninjas don't get wet. Water gets ninja'd.



NINJA SAYS: Do not use commas to separate adjectives that must stay in a specific order. **NOTE:** These must stay in order: articles, possessives, number placement, superlatives.

→ **Directions:** Circle the space where a comma should NOT go between adjectives.



ADJECTIVES IN SPECIFIC ORDER

4. The ninja didn't actually write his first historical novel; the words assembled themselves out of fear.
5. A picture is worth a thousand amazing words. A picture of a ninja is worth a billion words.
6. Ninjas always know the exact secretive location of Carmen San Diego.

→ **Directions:** Now, let's practice with paragraphs, which is a much more real life example of when you're going to need to get all this comma stuff correct. Insert the missing commas where they belong.

Ninjas can drink an entire cold gallon of milk in thirty-nine seconds. Ninjas don't bowl strikes, they just prod one scared stubborn pin and the other nine faint. Ninjas have a deep abiding respect for human life, unless it gets in their way. Ninjas don't stub their little ninja toes; they merely destroy sidewalks, chairs, and bed frames. Ninjas do not own any newfangled state-of-the-art expensive microwaves, stoves, or ovens because revenge is a dish best served cold. There is no such thing as "global warming"; instead, a ninja got cold, so he turned up the giant fiery sun. Ninjas are the reason the famous beloved Waldo is missing.



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GRAMMAR NINJA

COMMAS W/ GEOGRAPHY & DATES

→ **Directions: Insert the missing commas where they belong in the sentence.**



NINJA SAYS: When writing a geographic location with two parts (e.g. city, state, county, country, continent), use a comma after each part, unless it comes at the very end of a sentence.



GEOGRAPHY

1. Ninjas did, in fact, build Rome Italy in a day . . . actually, half a day.
2. In Ancient Tokyo Japan there was a legend that a man will be born from a dragon.
3. A ninja once carried the Eiffel Tower to Melbourne Australia to squash a single cockroach.



NINJA SAYS: When writing a date with two parts (e.g. day of week, month & day, year), use a comma after each part, unless it comes at the very end of a sentence.



DATES

4. A grandfather ninja once held his breath from December 25th 400 B.C. to December 25th 200 B.C.
5. Some people believe that on June 17 3000000 B.C. the dinosaurs were killed by a giant meteor, which is true if you can call a ninja a “giant meteor.”
6. There is a rumor saying that on November 4 1932 a bomb wasn’t dropped, but rather that they just dropped a bunch of ninjas.



Directions: Now, let’s practice with both rules together, which is a much more real life example of when you’re going to need to get all this comma stuff correct. Insert the missing commas.

7. In Berlin Germany in August 1922 Germans might have watched Einstein’s Theory of Relativity, which claims ninjas can actually kick you into yesterday.
8. Contrary to popular belief, on Sunday April 14th 1912 the Titanic didn’t hit an iceberg. It just ran into a ninja swimming back to Melbourne Australia from Cape Town South Africa.
9. After the June 6 1944 D-Day invasion at Normandy France some people started changing the name of the Sherman tank to the Ninjatank.
10. When the *Terminator* movie hit movie theaters on October 26 1984 James Cameron wanted a ninja to play the Terminator. However, he realized this would have made the movie a documentary, so he went with Arnold Schwarzenegger.



GRAMMAR NINJA

COMMAS W/ ADDRESSES, LETTERS, & NUMBERS

→ **Directions: Insert the missing commas where they belong in the sentence.**



NINJA SAYS: When writing an address in a sentence, put a comma after every part of the address except between the state and zip code.



ADDRESSES

1. Ninja Jaden says he lives at 1-5-3 Yaesu Chuo-ku Tokyo 100-89942 but that's just so he can surprise you when you arrive at the doors to the Tokyo Central Post Office.
2. You might think a ninja can't find you at 17293 Imperial Highway Anaheim Hills CA 92807 United States of America in the house on the corner, but they already have.
3. Ninjas are so powerful they can separate the parts of the address for 2526 Smokewater Lane Apt 3 Orange CA 92856 into each of its individual parts, while only using their minds.



NINJA SAYS: When composing a letter or email, put a comma after the greeting and the goodbye.



LETTERS/EMAILS

4. Dear Ninja Guru How are you so good at following your prey without them knowing? Love Jordan.
5. Dear Jordan I am right behind you. Now, I'm in front of you. Does that answer your question? Love Ninja Guru.
6. Dear Ninja No, it is not good enough. I wanted to know how you are so *-shmffbl-* -----



NINJA SAYS: With numbers of more than three digits, put a comma every three digits, starting from the right side at the decimal point.



NUMBERS

7. In an average living room, there are 1242 objects a ninja could use to hurt you, including the room itself.
8. 2473 years ago, a group of ninjas crossed paths with a bear. It was so terrified that it fled north into the Arctic. It was so terrified that all of its 5322 descendants now have white hair.
9. In an act of great compassion, a single ninja donated 6000 bodies to the American Cancer Association for scientific research.



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GRAMMAR NINJA

COMMAS W/ QUOTATIONS

→ **Directions: Insert the missing commas where they belong in the sentence.**

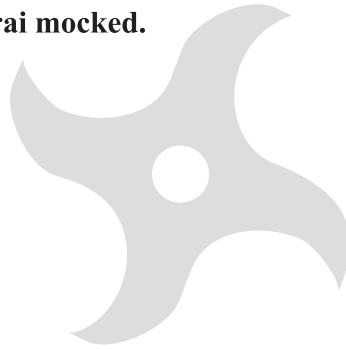


NINJA SAYS: When someone speaks directly, place a comma and quotation mark after the dialogue, then the speaker's name. **NOTE:** Remember the comma always goes inside the quotation marks.



EXAMPLE: "I am better than a ninja," the samurai mocked.

1. "I am a pretty good ninja" I said.
2. "No, you're not" he replied.
"Did you see me do that?" I asked.
"Do what?"
3. "Exactly" I answered, finally.



NINJA SAYS: When the action comes before the dialogue, use a comma then the quotation marks. Remember to put the final quotation mark at the end.



EXAMPLE: The ninja taunted back, "Then how come you're so smell?"

4. My friend said "Today, I went on thesaurus.com and searched for "ninjas."
5. I asked "What happened?"
6. He responded "The computer told me 'Ninjas cannot be found.'"
7. I laughed and said "Well played, ninjas, very well played."

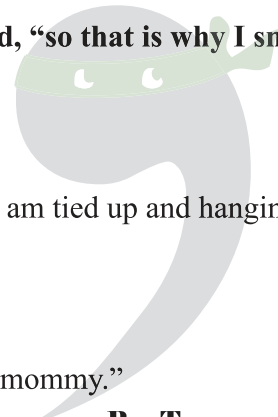


NINJA SAYS: When the dialogue is interrupted by action, you must determine if the dialogue is split into two separate thoughts or if the two parts make up one thought. If it's two thoughts, put a period after the action in the middle. If the dialogue is one connected thought, put a comma after the action.



EXAMPLE: "I have been standing by you for too long," the samurai said, "so that is why I smell."

8. "What time is it?" I asked the ninja "I need to meet my friends."
9. "I am sad for you" he answers "because it is two seconds 'til."
10. "I'm confused" I said "Two seconds 'til what?" And in the next second, I am tied up and hanging from a basketball hoop.
11. "Hey" I yelled "you're not just going to leave me here, are you?"
12. "You are a meanyhead" I hollered after he didn't answer "I'm telling my mommy."





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GRAMMAR NINJA

COMMAS: FINAL REVIEW

→ **Directions: Insert the missing commas and periods where they belong in the story.**

“Sakura the Ninja Who Could Be Seen” by Jonathan Stephens

From the first moment Sakura’s parents saw her they worried. “Oh Hiro” her mother said to her father “baby ninjas aren’t supposed to be born visible” But she was. She was so impossibly astoundingly visible.

Hiro walked over to his daughter touched her softly on the temple and smiled with his calm fluid movements so she would know it would all be okay. Not since October 12 345 B.C. had a baby been born visible. In Wakkanai Japan the story of that cursed child was known all throughout the countryside. Each time the moon grew full Benjiro the town storyteller would gather the surrounding villages together and recount the legend beside the warm orange fireglow.

Baby Sakura grew up normal though and she grew smart fast and tough everything a ninja should be. She could climb a cherry tree in three seconds count the 3427 pink blossoms with her mind and make the tiny flowers float to the ground in a pile. She knew her father Hiro the Elder worried about her. Indeed every neighbor near their hut at 99 Bonzai Circle Wakkania Japan thought something was wrong. Even Sakura worried since she could feel something different budding inside her.

So one day without telling her parents Sakura set off on a journey to see Benjiro the storyteller who lived in the hill country. She took a sack of food her lucky walking stick and the small silver medallion her father Hiro had given her as a young sweet girl. She was fast and traveled quickly. Soon she arrived at the crest of a low lush green valley filled with pink-blossomed cherry trees. The air was thick with the sweet flowery aroma. She clutched tightly to the medallion around her neck and walked down the valley and into the pink forest.

She thought “This must be the only place in Wakkanai Japan with forests so colorful.”

But she was scared her nerves jittery. She called out “Storyteller where are you?”

“I am here” she heard a voice say “amidst the trees. Keep walking. I know your heart.”

Walking beneath the brilliant pink branches she felt the wind and thought she saw flower petals release from the trees but they weren’t falling to the ground. They swirled more and more now hundreds of them thousands until the forest air swarmed with pink petals. They twirled and danced around her tickling her skin and she worried the forest might capture her like it did the cursed baby from ages ago.

Until the voice spoke again “The Great Wind has seen your heart Little One. It knows your true self”

Trembling she felt the pink swarm of tickling petals whoosh away up past the branches into the blue sky and disappear behind the clouds.

When she looked down she couldn’t believe her eyes. Her medallion was gone and so was she.