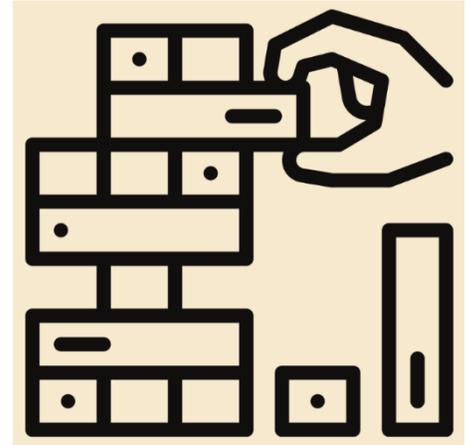


JENGA

Sentence Mechanics Review Game



Player Age and Number of Players

For anyone who is ready to review commas, capitalization, and apostrophes, and any number of players; however, smaller groups work best.

Preparation

Separate the blocks into four piles of 12. Six blocks will be left over. With a sharpie marker or paint, color the ends of the blocks in one pile green. Do the same with the remaining piles, coloring the ends red, black, and blue in their respective piles. Allow the blocks to dry before stacking the blocks into a typical Jenga tower.

Print out the grammar sentences on the next four pages and cut the sentences into into strips. Place the strips with the sentences facing down, and keep them grouped in piles according to color.

Game play

Players take turns. Each player must announce the color they want to pull *before* pulling a block. The player then chooses a sentence strip which represents that color, reads their sentence out loud, and decides how it needs to be corrected. The player may verbally explain what should be done to correct the sentence, or he or she may edit the sentence on the strip of paper to correct it. Sentences must be edited according to color category:

Green – Commas with non-essential elements (Add missing commas where necessary.)

Red – Commas in a compound sentence (Add missing commas or conjunctions where necessary.)

Black – Capitalization and apostrophes (Capitalize or add apostrophes where necessary.)

Blue – Commas with dates and locations (Add commas where necessary.)

The game moderator checks the answer key (if necessary) to approve the player's corrections. If the player's sentence is edited correctly, he or she may then pull out a block of the color he or she previously announced.

The six uncolored blocks are wild. Players who pull them may pick a sentence from any card pile.

Players take turns until the tower falls.

Determining a winner

The player with the most blocks of the same color is the winner!

Other applications

Now that you have a set of blocks with colored ends, the applications are endless. You can create questions for other types of educational review or have your students create lists of challenges to use with the game.

GREEN BLOCKS– Commas with Non-essential Elements

Add commas where necessary.

1. (Green) When training your dog to walk beside you don't use a retractable leash.
2. (Green) The treasure map which was drawn in black ink showed the location of the key.
3. (Green) My father who loves American history participates in Civil War reenactments.
4. (Green) Even though Jake kept them in a jar for two days the fireflies survived.
5. (Green) Jessica my best friend is hamster crazy.
6. (Green) Greg asked Mr. Blake who lives on the same street if he could have a ride home.
7. (Green) Daisies so bright and cheerful always remind me of happy children.
8. (Green) The trip to our destination Laurel Lake made me car sick.
9. (Green) Dancing and spinning Jessica twirled her way up the aisle.
10. (Green) If you are not sure whether or not you should say something you should probably not say it.

RED BLOCKS – Commas in a Compound Sentence

Add punctuation or a conjunction where necessary.

1. (Red) The cat slept on its back with its legs sprawled out, it was hilarious.
2. (Red) I just got new shoes and they don't fit.
3. (Red) It rains heavily every afternoon, I still prefer to walk to my friend's house.
4. (Red) Grandma makes steak and eggs for breakfast every day for she grew up on a farm.
5. (Red) The Crayola company makes 12 million crayons a day, there are 120 different colors.
6. (Red) You can teach your guinea pig to do trick but first it should trust you enough to eat out of your hand.
7. (Red) George Lucas's father owned an office supply store, George did not want to work there.
8. (Red) Guinea pigs are not from New Guinea, they are not pigs, either.
9. (Red) Early rubber did not hold its shape but rather, it became sticky in hot weather and inflexible in the cold.
10. (Red) Students who know how to punctuate impress their professors, they score well on essays.

BLACK BLOCKS – CAPITALIZATION AND APOSTROPHES

Capitalize or add apostrophes where necessary.

1. (Black) Its too bad there is so much confusion with homonyms.
2. (Black) Last summer we went to a wyoming ranch, a yacht race, and a Delaware beach.
3. (Black) On what day does christmas fall this year?
4. (Black) The childrens playground is on the other side of the pond.
5. (Black) A dinner honoring colonel kepling will be held at next saturday evening.
6. (Black) Please bring all of the boys shoes here.
7. (Black) Mrs. Collins dog is a biter; I wont groom him.
8. (Black) That cat is terrified of going near the mices hole.
9. (Black) We went to see william shakespeare's play in central park in new york city.
10. (Black) Jessica put the ladies coats, hats, and purses on the bed in the guest room.

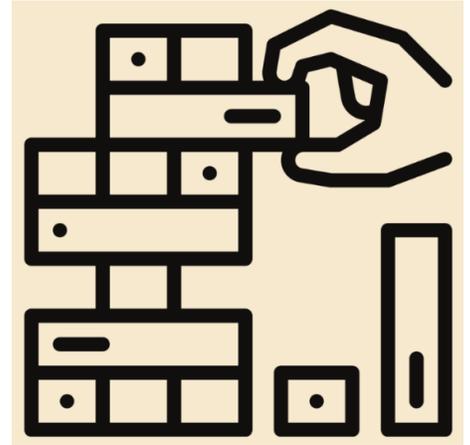
BLUE BLOCKS – COMMAS WITH DATES AND LOCATIONS

Add commas where necessary.

1. (Blue) The first Grand Prix motor race occurred on June 26 1907.
2. (Blue) National Bean Day is on Saturday, January 6th. This is not a joke.
3. (Blue) On August 28 1963 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.
4. (Blue) The artist has been at her new address of 2109 North 10th Street Denver Colorado since August 23 2011.
5. (Blue) On September 30 2017 they went to Malawi Africa.
6. (Blue) May I have an appointment for Monday May 7th?
7. (Blue) Some insist that Los Angeles California is the doughnut capital of the world, but others say that it is New York City New York.
8. (Blue) We celebrated national Hot Sauce Day on Monday January 27th.
9. (Blue) Rochester New York receives the highest average snowfall per year in the continental United States.
10. (Blue) For some lucky students in Naples Florida the last day of school is May 2nd 2026.

JENGA

Sentence Mechanics
Review Game



Answer Keys

GREEN BLOCKS– Commas with Non-essential Elements

Add commas where necessary.

1. (Green) When training your dog to walk beside you, don't use a retractable leash.
2. (Green) The treasure map, which was drawn in black ink, showed the location of the key.
3. (Green) My father, who loves American history, participates in Civil War reenactments.
4. (Green) Even though Jake kept them in a jar for two days, the fireflies survived.
5. (Green) Jessica, my best friend, is hamster crazy.
6. (Green) Greg asked Mr. Blake, who lives on the same street, if he could have a ride home.
7. (Green) Daisies, so bright and cheerful, always remind me of happy children.
8. (Green) The trip to our destination, Laurel Lake, made me car sick.
9. (Green) Dancing and spinning, Jessica twirled her way up the aisle.
10. (Green) If you are not sure whether or not you should say something, you should probably not say it.

RED BLOCKS – Commas in a Compound Sentence

Add a comma or a conjunction where necessary.

1. (Red) The cat slept on its back with its legs sprawled out, **and** it was hilarious.
2. (Red) I just got new shoes, **and** they don't fit.
3. (Red) It rains heavily every afternoon, **but** I still prefer to walk to my friend's house.
4. (Red) Grandma makes steak and eggs for breakfast every day, **for** she grew up on a farm.
5. (Red) The Crayola company makes 12 million crayons a day, **and** there are 120 different colors.
6. (Red) You can teach your guinea pig to do tricks, **but** first it should trust you enough to eat out of your hand.
7. (Red) George Lucas's father owned an office supply store, **but** George did not want to work there.
8. (Red) Guinea pigs are not from New Guinea, **and** they are not pigs, either.
9. (Red) Early rubber did not hold its shape, **but** rather, it became sticky in hot weather and inflexible in the cold.
10. (Red) Students who know how to punctuate impress their professors, **and** they score well on essays.

BLACK BLOCKS – CAPITALIZATION AND APOSTROPHES

Capitalize or add apostrophes where necessary.

1. (Black) **It's** too bad there is so much confusion with homonyms.
2. (Black) Last summer we went to a **Wyoming** ranch, a yacht race, and a **Delaware** beach.
3. (Black) On what day does **Christmas** fall this year?
4. (Black) **The children's** playground is on the other side of the pond.
5. (Black) A dinner honoring **Colonel Kepling** will be held next **Saturday** evening.
6. (Black) Please bring all of the **boys'** shoes here.
7. (Black) Mrs. **Collin's** dog is a biter; I **won't** groom him.
8. (Black) That cat is terrified of going near the **mice's** hole.
9. (Black) We went to see **William Shakespeare's** play, in central park in **New York City**.
10. (Black) Jessica put the **ladies'** coats, hats, and purses on the bed in the guest room.

BLUE BLOCKS – COMMAS WITH DATES AND LOCATIONS

Add commas where necessary.

1. (Blue) The first Grand Prix motor race occurred on June 26, 1907.
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