

Commas To Clarify Meaning

Learning Outcome: To use the comma correctly in writing to avoid ambiguity and confusion.

You will be put in detention for not doing your homework.



Task: Rewrite the sentence adding commas to change the meaning.

The pupil said the teacher was to be put in detention for not doing his homework.

How did adding the commas change the meaning?

Task: Rewrite the sentence adding a comma to change the meaning.

Help a burglar.



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The pupil, said the teacher, was to be put in detention for not doing his homework.

How did adding the commas change the meaning?

In the first sentence the pupil was telling the teacher that the teacher would be put in detention for not doing homework. Adding the comma changed the meaning to the student, would be put in detention for not doing his homework.

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Help a burglar.



Help, a burglar.