1. Focus

Explain Using Commas to Punctuate People’s Titles

**Say:** We know that commas have many uses. One use for commas is to separate a person's name from his or her title. A person’s title describes his or her job or education. We set off a person's title with commas so the reader knows that these words contain extra information that is not part of the main thought expressed by the sentence.

Model Using Commas to Punctuate People’s Titles

Display the following text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources and read it aloud to students.

| 1. Albert Adams, city councilman, supports the mayor’s position. |
| 2. Tom O’Shea, mayor of Oakdale, wants to sell the land to a developer. |

**Modeling Text**

**Say:** Look at the first sentence: city councilman is set off from the rest of the sentence with commas. This is Albert Adams’s job title. He is a city councilman. Look at the second example. Tom O’Shea is the mayor of Oakdale. His job title is separated from the rest of the sentence by commas. The words mayor of Oakdale tell us something about Tom O’Shea, but if you removed the words from the sentence, it would still make sense. The words are not essential to the sentence’s main thought—that he wants to sell the land.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Commas to Punctuate People’s Titles

Display the practice text (without commas) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

Ask students to work with a partner to tell where commas should go in the sentences. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

1. Maria Gomez, city councilwoman, wants the tree to stay right where it is.
2. Seymour Lee, DDS, is a 68-year Oakdale resident.
3. Thornton Fennimore Singer, president of Oakdale Historical Society, has strong feelings about saving the oak tree.

Practice Text

If your class includes English language learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Sentences with Commas Used to Punctuate People’s Titles

Invite pairs to share their results. Discuss their responses. Ask the following questions:

• Where do the commas go?
• How did you recognize the person’s title?
• Why do we set off job titles with commas?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that commas are used to separate people’s names from their titles. Remember to use commas on both sides of people’s titles in your writing. Quoting or referencing experts can make your persuasive writing more convincing, and providing each expert’s title tells the reader why the person is an expert in his or her field.

If you would like to give students additional practice using commas to punctuate people’s titles, have them complete BLM 9.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to read aloud their answers to BLM 9. Use students’ answers to provide corrective feedback.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

As partners work together, use the time to help beginning ELs understand more basic uses of the comma, such as in a series. Use simple sentences to help beginning ELs understand the use of serial commas. Write the following sentences on chart paper and read them aloud. Have students read them with you: I see dogs. I see cats. I see birds. Draw pictures to support students’ understanding of each animal name.

Now write the sentence “I see dogs, cats, and birds.” Read it aloud, emphasizing the pause after each comma. Ask students to read it with you. Circle the commas in the sentence and name this punctuation mark for students.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair students with fluent English speakers to revise the practice sentences and to complete BLM 9. Use the following sentence frames to help students talk about where to put the commas.

The person’s name is ______.
The person’s title is ______.