1. Focus

Explain Commas in a Series

**Say:** There are several uses for commas in sentences. One use is to separate the words in a list, or series of items. A series is three or more things written one after the other. The items may be single words or word groups. Listen to the series in this sentence: “The engine rattled, coughed, and stalled.” The series is made up of a list of actions. If you don’t use commas, you may confuse your readers.

Model Using Commas in a Series

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Read the text aloud to students. **Say:** Let’s look at two examples: One that is confusing because it doesn’t use commas and one that is clear.

Bell had to leave her mother father and brother forever.

Bell had to leave her mother, father, and brother forever.

**Modeling Text**

**Say:** This first sentence is hard to read because it doesn’t use commas when it lists members of Bell’s family. It’s hard for me to figure out who the family members are. By separating out each family member in the second sentence with a comma, I make it easier to understand who exactly Bell had to leave behind.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Commas for Items in a Series

Display the practice text (with errors) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

Ask students to work with partners to decide where the commas should go in the practice sentences. (Students do not need to copy the sentences.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. She traveled around New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sojourner Truth continued to travel, preach, and tell others about her life.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Say: We learned that we need to use commas when we list a series of three or more items or ideas. The commas make the text easier to read. You may need to use commas in a series when you write your biographies.

If you would like to give students additional practice using commas in a series, have them complete BLM 10.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Share Sentences with Commas in a Series

Invite volunteers to come to the chart or use the interactive whiteboard and insert commas where needed in each sentence. As a class, discuss their choices and how the commas make the sentences easier to read.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to share their answers to BLM 10. Provide feedback as necessary.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

While other students engage in partner practice, work one to one with beginning ELs to practice forming sentences that contain a series. Place three objects on a desk (for example, a notebook, a pen, and a ruler). Name each object and ask students to say the names with you. Say: I see a______, I see a______, I see a_______. Then say: I see a______, a______, and a_______. Write the sentence on chart paper and read it aloud for students. Circle the commas in the series. Repeat the sentence frames with other objects and write those sentences, too.

Intermediate and Advanced

Use the following sentence frames to help both students in the pairs talk about commas:

| The series is ______. |
| We need commas after ______. |

All Levels

If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share these English/Spanish cognates: comma/la coma; series/la serie.

Pair students with fluent English speakers to complete the BLM.