Comma or Not?

Sort word lists by whether they need commas.

3.L.2.c "Use commas in greetings and closings of letters, in addresses, to separate single words in a series and in compound sentences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

NEEDS COMMAS

A list of three or more single words needs commas between the words. Put a comma before and, too.

violet, orange, and yellow

NO COMMA NEEDED

A list of only two words joined by and does not need a comma.

silver and gold

1 SORT

8 items

Circle NEEDS or NONE for each list, then pick one item from each group and explain how you knew.

1.	lions tigers and bears	NEEDS NONE
2.	hammers nails and screws	NEEDS NONE
3.	apples and pears	NEEDS NONE
4.	rivers lakes and ponds	NEEDS NONE
5.	cups and bowls	NEEDS NONE
6.	horses and sheep	NEEDS NONE
7.	drums flutes and bells	NEEDS NONE
8.	shirts socks and shoes	NEEDS NONE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new list of three single words that needs commas, but leave the commas out. Then write one new list of two single words joined by and that needs no comma.

NEEDS _____

NONE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one NEEDS list from Part 1 and rewrite it with commas in the right places.

ANSWER KEY

Comma or Not?

GRADE 3 · 3.L.2.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	lions tigers and bears	**NEEDS**	Three single words in a list need commas.
2	hammers nails and screws	**NEEDS**	Three single words in a list need commas.
3	apples and pears	**NONE**	Two words joined by and need no comma.
4	rivers lakes and ponds	**NEEDS**	Three single words in a list need commas.
5	cups and bowls	**NONE**	Two words joined by and need no comma.
6	horses and sheep	**NONE**	Two words joined by and need no comma.
7	drums flutes and bells	**NEEDS**	Three single words in a list need commas.
8	shirts socks and shoes	**NEEDS**	Three single words in a list need commas.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **NEEDS**: spoons forks and plates
- **NONE**: clouds and stars

Challenge: lions, tigers, and bears

For Part 2, an explanation should identify three listed words for NEEDS and two words joined by and for NONE. In Part 3, the first list should have no commas yet, since the student adds them only in the challenge.