

Punctuation: commas with discourse markers

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a In conclusion, the world population is expanding at an unsustainable rate.
b In conclusion the world population is expanding at an unsustainable rate.
- 2 a If we look for example, at sport in schools.
b If we look, for example, at sport in schools.

Discourse markers are words or phrases which show how ideas in a text link together. They are often separated from the rest of the text by commas.

We usually use a comma after a phrase or an adverb which introduces a sentence:

***In addition,** many disabled people suffer discrimination at work.*

***On the other hand,** the unemployment rate has fallen.*

***Finally,** local councils need to consider the cost of recycling schemes.*

***Unfortunately,** there were no more tickets available.*

***Similarly,** animals kept outdoors are also vulnerable to infection.*

We also use commas around certain words and phrases in the middle of a sentence:

*This problem can't, **however,** be solved quite so simply.*

*There are more jobs in the city, but, **of course,** the cost of living is higher.*

*Which option you choose depends, **to a certain extent,** on your budget.*

*Water is particularly scarce in arid regions, **for example/for instance,** in Africa.*

*People who live in cold countries, **such as/like** Norway, have to spend more on heating.*

☆ Where an adverb describes an adjective, commas are not needed:

*This was matched by a **similarly dramatic** increase in May.*

***However careful** you are, accidents can always happen.*

2 Correct the mistake below.

Inevitably there's always
something you forget.

..... something you forget.



3 Add commas in the sentences below where needed.

- 1 What happens if for example you forget your password?
- 2 To sum up I'd like to recap the main advantages and disadvantages.
- 3 Statistics can however be misleading.
- 4 Low-lying countries such as Bangladesh are particularly at risk.
- 5 Furthermore not everyone will be able to afford to install new telephones.
- 6 Contact sports like rugby will inevitably involve more injuries.
- 7 A similarly priced house in the city centre would only have one bedroom.
- 8 We will of course reimburse any travel expenses.