

L.O.: to write a balanced argument

- I can use multiple clauses in my sentences
- I can use commas to separate clauses
- I can change the order of clauses in my sentences

Read and write notes about the article, answer the questions Who, When, Where, What and Why.

Pupils Protest Over New Uniform Rule

On the 6th September, police were called to Priory School in Lewes, East Sussex, after around 150 parents and pupils protested against a new school-uniform rule.

What is the new rule?

The rule requires all students, whether they are girls or boys, to wear trousers. Skirts are not allowed. This had previously only applied to students who had joined the school since 2017, but now it applies to all pupils. In a statement, Priory School said any students who didn't follow the new rule would be sent home and asked to change, before returning to school. One pupil, called Nina Cullen, wasn't allowed into the building after she arrived wearing a skirt.

Why was the rule introduced?

Priory School said it introduced the rule in response to concerns that the girls' skirts were too short. The school also said it was brought in to make the uniforms gender neutral, which means students wouldn't be expected to wear a certain uniform based on whether they are boys or girls. A spokesperson for Priory School said that the new rule would also help students focus on their school work.

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Revision Card – Commas separating clauses or phrases

Commas

Commas are used to clarify meaning

To separate some clauses or phrases, e.g. a fronted adverbial

To separate items in a list or several words in a description

Commas separate clauses or phrases

We need a comma when...

the extra clause or phrase is at the front of the sentence

the clause or phrase is embedded within the sentence

when she heard the news the local MP Maria Caulfield tweeted that she was very disturbed ✗

When she heard the news, the local MP, Maria Caulfield, tweeted that she was very disturbed. ✓

Commas separate clauses or phrases

Remember!

A **clause** has an active verb.

A **phrase** does not!

We need a comma when...

the extra clause or phrase is at the front of the sentence

the clause or phrase is embedded within the sentence

Although police attended the protest, no arrests were made.

In a statement, Priory school said pupils who didn't follow the rule would be sent home.

One pupil, called Nina Cullen, was not allowed in the building.

For and Against School Uniform 1

The clauses and phrases in these argument points have been marked with colour.

Sort them into For/Against and write them out, using commas to mark the clauses and phrases.

1. Since uniform is smarter it creates a good working ethos.
2. To be independent children should choose their own clothes.
3. When out of school school uniform helps children to be recognised.
4. In the real world very few jobs require a uniform.
5. Uniforms because they restrict choice save parents money.
6. Some uniform items such as blazers can be expensive to buy and difficult to wash.

Answers on the next slide, no peeking.

- For 1. Since uniform is smarter, it creates a good working ethos.
- Against 2. To be independent, children should choose their own clothes.
- For 3. When out of school, school uniform helps children to be recognised.
- Against 4. In the real world, very few jobs require a uniform.
- For 5. Uniforms, because they restrict choice, save parents money.
- Against 6. Some uniform items, such as blazers, can be expensive to buy and difficult to wash.

For and Against School Uniform 2

- Decide where in the sentence to put the extra clause or phrase.
- Write your new sentence out in a For/Against column
- Make sure you punctuate your sentence properly.

1. a uniform emphasises similarities between students

because it is the same for everyone

2. schools can still insist on certain standards of dress

even without a uniform

3. the sense of pride means students work harder

which is created by a uniform

4. children are prepared for being smart at work

by wearing uniform

5. children should be allowed to express themselves

since they are individuals

6. children will need other clothes.

in the evenings and at weekends

Answers on the
next slide, no
peeking.

- For 1. **Because it is the same for everyone**, a uniform emphasises similarities between students.
- Against 2. **Even without a uniform**, schools can still insist on certain standards of dress.
- For 3. The sense of pride, **which is created by a uniform**, means students work harder.
- For 4. **By wearing uniform**, children are prepared for being smart at work.
- Against 5. **Since they are individuals**, children should be allowed to express themselves.
- For 6. **In the evenings and at weekends**, children will need other clothes.

Writing Brief

Here are some bullet point notes about points for and against school uniform.

- might increase student safety
- restrict freedom of expression
- may deter crime
- focus pupils on school not clothes
- prevent students from expressing individuality
- do not stop bullying
- enhance pride and community spirit
- might improve attendance and discipline
- are not popular with students
- parents have to buy expensive items

Extend these clauses and phrases into sentences and organise them into For/Against.

- Make some of your sentences include extra clauses or phrases
- You might add an adverbial at the beginning. (e.g. Incredibly, Amazingly, Surprisingly, Clearly, Sadly etc)
- You could combine two or more facts into one sentence
- Remember to use commas to keep the meaning clear

Your Task

You are to write two paragraphs- one for and one against school uniform.

Use the help on the left for your arguments.

Focus on your sentence structure to make sure you include complex sentences with more than one clause in each one.

Change the order of the clauses in your sentences.

Include commas to separate your clauses.

