

The Comma Pair Trap

Rising Grade 8 revising/editing mini-lesson

Parent note

Give this as a 5-minute check. The goal is not memorizing a rule; it is noticing the structure of the sentence.

Question

Read the sentence. Which revision correctly punctuates the sentence? The community garden, which opened three years ago now feeds dozens of families each summer.

- (A) The community garden, which opened three years ago, now feeds dozens of families each summer.
- (B) The community garden which opened three years ago, now feeds dozens of families each summer.
- (C) The community garden, which opened three years ago now, feeds dozens of families each summer.
- (D) The community garden which opened three years ago now feeds dozens of families each summer.

Answer and explanation

Correct answer: A

The phrase 'which opened three years ago' interrupts the core sentence. If you cross it out, the core sentence still works: 'The community garden now feeds dozens of families each summer.' Because the phrase is inserted into the middle, it needs a comma before it and a comma after it.

Next step

If this was hard, try the free SHSAT grammar sample. If you need a full ELA + Math baseline, use the \$1.99 diagnostic.

originalpracticelab.com/shsat-comma-pair-trap