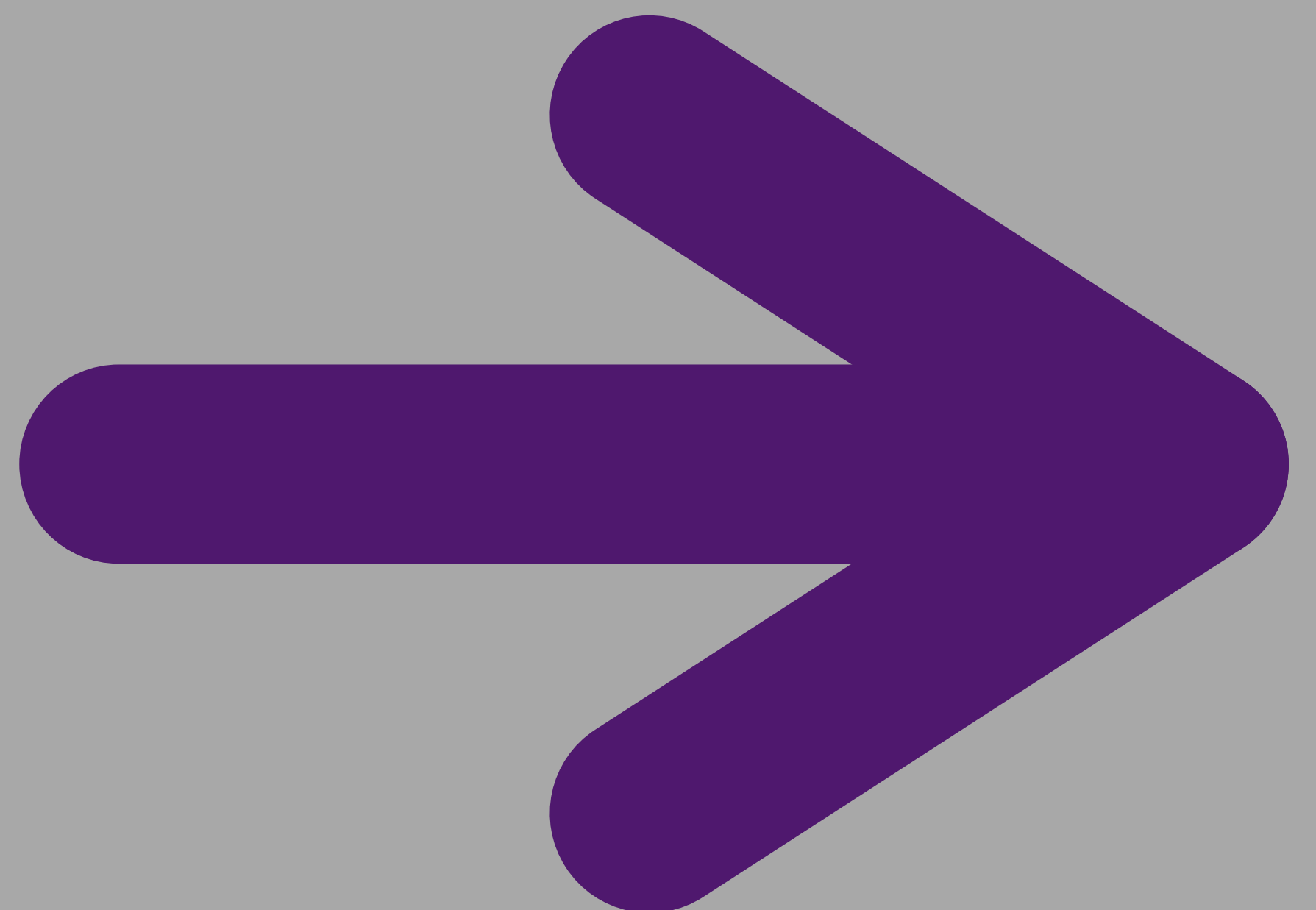
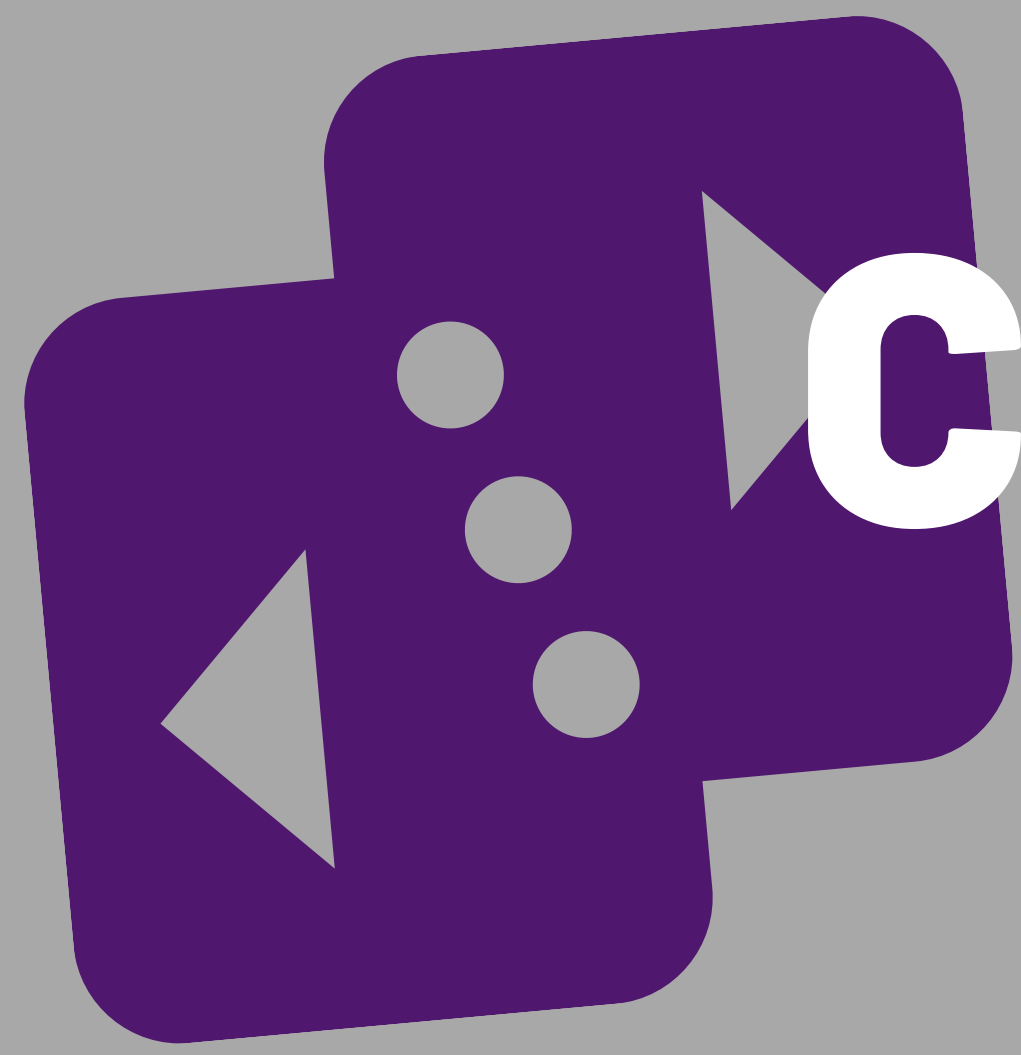




COMMON COMMA CONUNDRUMS





Comma Splice

Do not attach two separate sentences with a comma.

For ex:

I am reading this post to learn about improving my punctuation, I am hoping to increase my marks and produce better writing as a result.

Instead:

Two separate sentences:

I am reading this post to learn about improving my punctuation. I am hoping to increase my marks and produce better writing as a result.

Use a semicolon:

I am reading this post to learn about improving my punctuation; I am hoping to increase my marks and produce better writing as a result.



Closing comma

Don't forget to include the second comma for an inserted phrase

For ex:

The laptop I use for university, which I bought ten years ago definitely needs to be upgraded.

Instead:

Remember that closing comma!:

The laptop I use for university, which I bought ten years ago, definitely needs to be upgarded.



Remember: Commas should be used to mark off a phrase in the middle of a sentence. If any doubt, ask : would this sentence still be acceptable without the inserted phrase? If yes - use commas!



'Breathing' Commas

Don't use commas wherever you think someone would 'breathe' whilst reading the sentence.

This is commonly taught in primary school...and it's not always helpful!

For ex:

As we were walking down the street, we noticed that many people, were walking dogs today, which seemed unusual given that today, was noted as being, the hottest day of the year.

Instead:

In this sentence, a comma would only be needed to separate the introductory clause and the clause with a conjunction:

As we were walking down the street, we noticed that many people were walking dogs today, which seemed unusual given that today was noted as being the hottest day of the year.