

Punctuation – The Oxford Comma

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The so-called Oxford comma is the name given to the comma that is used before the 'and, or 'or' just before the final item in a list.

It is sometimes called a 'series comma', or 'serial comma'.

Apparently, the name is because this was a style used at Oxford University Press.

Although it looks to be a UK/US difference, there are cases where it is used in English.

Oxford Comma – Examples

If we look at the following sentences, the only difference seems to be the last comma.

- We invited the cats, Elvis and Lincoln.
- We invited the cats, Elvis, and Lincoln.

But we need to ask the question, “How many are invited?”

With The Oxford Comma

➤ We invited the cats, Elvis, and Lincoln.



Without The Oxford Comma

- We invited the cats, Elvis and Lincoln.

