



Полезная лексика по теме  
**«Видеоразбор:  
оксфордская запятая — за  
и против»**

**Say** you're helping plan a friend's party, and he sends you a **text** asking you to "**bring** Bob, a DJ and a clown". You're **pretty impressed**. You had no idea Bob was so **multitalented**. But when the day **arrives**, it **turns out** that he's not, and you **were supposed to** bring three different people. As you and Bob sit at the silent, clownless party, it **occurs to** you that the **confusion** could've been **avoided** simply by using another **comma** after DJ.

This final comma in a list, placed **directly** before the main **conjunction**, such as and, or, or nor, is called the **serial comma**, or **Oxford comma**. And it has long **driven grammar nerds crazy** because even major language institutions can't **agree on** whether it should be used.

say (здесь) — скажем, предположим  
a text (здесь) — смс  
to bring — привести  
pretty impressed — весьма впечатлен  
multitalented — наделенный разнообразными талантами  
to arrive (здесь) — наступить  
to turn out — оказываться  
to be supposed to do smth — быть должным что-то сделать  
to occur to smb — приходить кому-либо в голову, осенять кого-либо  
confusion — путаница  
to avoid — избегать  
a comma — запятая  
directly — прямо, непосредственно  
a conjunction — союз  
a serial comma = Oxford comma — серийная или оксфордская запятая  
to drive smb crazy — сводить кого-либо с ума  
a nerd — ботаник, фанат  
to agree on smth — достигать соглашения в чем-либо, договариваться о чем-либо



**Ironically**, the Oxford comma is more **common** in the United States, where it's recommended by **the MLA, the Chicago Style Manual, and the US Government Printing Office**, though not by **the AP Style Book**.

In the UK and other English-speaking countries, most style guides do not support the comma's use, **with the exception of its namesake**, the Oxford University Press. Why not use the serial comma? One of the main **arguments** is that the conjunction is usually enough to **denote** a **separate entity**. And where it's not, like in your **ill-fated invite list**, changing the **order of terms** will usually **do the job**.

Journalists also dislike the comma because it **takes up precious space** and can make text look **cluttered**. Sometimes, it can even create confusion of its own. For example, if your friend had asked for "Bob, a DJ and a puppy", you'd probably **figure out** that they're three **separate beings**. Puppies are **cute**, but they don't **make** great DJs. With the comma, you may think Bob is the DJ, and all you need is him and the puppy.

ironically — как ни странно, парадоксально

common — свойственный, общепринятый  
the MLA Style Manual (MLA = Modern Language Association of America) — руководство по стилю форматирования и цитирования МЛА

the Chicago Style Manual — руководство по Чикагскому стилю форматирования и цитирования

the US Government Printing Office — агентство печати правительства США

the AP Style Book (AP = Associated Press) — руководство по стилю и форматированию AP

with the exception of — за исключением

a namesake — тезка

an argument (здесь) — аргумент

to denote — обозначать

a separate entity — отдельное понятие

ill-fated — злополучный

an invite list — список приглашенных

an order — порядок

a term (здесь) — пункт

to do the job — сделать свое дело

to take up space — занимать место

precious — драгоценный

cluttered — громоздкий, перенасыщенный

to figure out (здесь) — догадаться

a separate being — отдельное существо

cute — милый

to make smb (здесь) — становиться кем-либо



The argument over the Oxford comma has **raised** such **strong passions** over the years that a sort of **truce** has been **reached**. The **common wisdom** is that its use is **optional**, and **depends on** whether it will help to avoid confusion. **For one thing**, you're supposed to **keep** your use or **avoidance** of the Oxford comma **consistent** throughout a whole piece of writing. So, using it only where necessary is not an option.

And the very idea of a grammatical rule being optional is a bit **odd**. Imagine that you hadn't **messed up** the party planning, and read the next day that "everyone had a great time — **ninjas, pirates, vikings**, old and young". If the Oxford comma were standard, you would notice it **missing** and **conclude** that old and young must describe the **awesome** guests already **listed**. But **as things stand**, you will always **wonder** whether it means that **a bunch of regular**, boring kids and old people **showed up** as well.

to raise strong passions — накалять страсти

a truce — соглашение о перемирии

to reach — достигать

common wisdom — общепринятая точка зрения

optional — необязательный

to depend on — зависеть от

for one thing — прежде всего

avoidance — избегание

to keep smth consistent (здесь) — постоянно придерживаться чего-либо

odd — странный

to mess smth up — испортить что-либо

a ninja /'nɪndʒə/ — ниндзя

a pirate — пират

a viking /'vaɪ.kɪŋ/ — викинг

missing — отсутствующий, недостающий

to conclude — сделать вывод

awesome — шикарный, фантастический

listed — перечисленный в списке

as things stand — судя по всему

to wonder (здесь) — сомневаться

a bunch of — горстка, группа

regular (здесь) — обыкновенный

to show up — объявиться, приходиться



**Ultimately**, the serial comma may be useful or **annoying**, but your opinion on it, as for many optional things, probably has something to do with **whichever** style you were **raised** on. Your **high school** teachers **favoured** it? It's **likely** you're still using it. Your first **editor** hated it? You probably do, too. And maybe so much **hairsplitting over** a **tiny squiggle** on a page is a bit silly. After all, there are so many bigger problems to worry about. But sometimes, little things can **make a big difference**.

ultimately — в конечном счете  
annoying — раздражающий  
whichever — какой бы ни  
to raise — воспитывать  
high school — старшие классы  
to favour — оказывать предпочтение  
likely — видимо, вполне вероятно  
an editor — редактор  
hairsplitting over smth — мелочные придирки к чему-либо  
tiny — крошечный  
a squiggle — завиток, закорючка  
to make a difference (здесь) — иметь большое значение