There are a number of ways we can share our ideas with other people. The most common way is by talking. When we talk we do not need to worry about punctuation. When we write our ideas down, however, there are certain rules we must obey. Our ideas must be broken into units called sentences. You might think of sentences as descriptions of single things happening. Each sentence is a description of a single event taking place. In some sentences more than one thing can take place as long as a joining word (like 'and') is used to join the events.

Act out the sentences below.
Count the different things you are told the different people or things do. No joining words have been used. See if you can work out where each sentence begins and ends. Finally, write the passage with correct punctuation.

Rapunzel

rapunzel sat in the tower she was crying a witch had locked her in there suddenly she heard a voice a handsome prince was calling her

Alison's Journey

alison boarded the train she sat in a seat the train began to move alison looked out the window she waved to grandmother the train began to move faster after a few minutes alison fell asleep she began snoring loudly mother woke her they both got off the train

Farm Life

peter lives on a farm he works hard he feeds the hens he collects the eggs his father drives the truck he milks the cows his mother looks after the house she cooks the meals

In some of the little stories below some of the sentences have more than one thing happening in them. This can only happen where a joining word is used. Act out the passages and decide how many sentences there are.

Stormy Weather

jim walked outside the wind was blowing rain began to fall lightning flashed
jim ran inside and hid behind his thumbs

In the Bush

gordon goanna was sunning himself on a rock walter wombat waddled by and greeted him kenny cockroach peeked out from under a piece of bark barrington blowfly buzzed by the sun shone bright curly the caterpillar crawled by all of the animals scurried to a safe place when the scent of a man came into the bush (two joining words)

Characters: Rapunzel - Rapunzel, witch, a handsome prince
Alison's Journey - Alison, the train, Alison's mother
Farm Life - Peter, Father, Mother
Stormy Weather - Jim, wind, rain, lightning
In the Bush - Gordon Goanna, Walter Wombat, Kenny Cockroach, Barrington Blowfly, the Sun, Curly Caterpillar; the scent of a man.