

# COMMAS BETWEEN ADJECTIVES

Coordinate vs. Cumulative

**Which sentence correctly uses a comma?**

- F** The young director's latest action movie had a long, successful run in the theaters.
- G** Concert violinists everywhere in the world wear white shirts with black, cotton pants.
- H** After swimming practice she was so hungry that she ate two, delicious chicken sandwiches.
- J** It is far better for the environment to use recycled cups rather than the more, traditional, plastic cups.

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# COORDINATE ADJECTIVES VS. CUMULATIVE ADJECTIVES

## Coordinate Adjectives

**separately modify the noun and can be re-arranged.**

*James is wearing a black, fuzzy coat.*

*James is wearing a fuzzy, black coat.*

## Cumulative Adjectives

**the adjective right before the noun pairs with the noun as a unit**

*I ordered a rich chocolate layer cake.*

*I ordered a layer chocolate rich cake.*

**AWKWARD**

# USE COMMAS WHEN YOU COULD ADD THE WORD “AND” BETWEEN THE ADJECTIVES

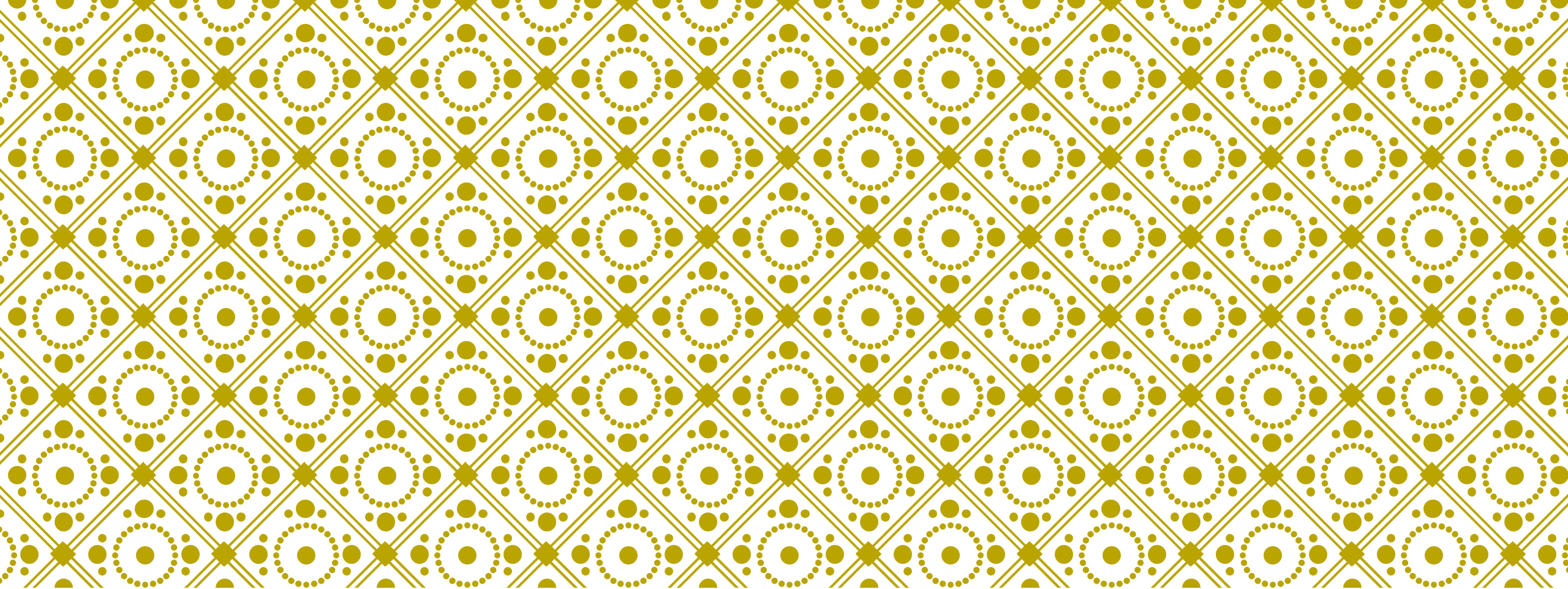
It was a beautiful, sunny day last Saturday.

It was a beautiful AND sunny day last Saturday. **CORRECT**

Three, large, grey squirrels scampered up the tree.

Three AND large AND grey squirrels scampered up the tree. **INCORRECT**

Three large grey squirrels scampered up the tree. **CORRECT**



# PRACTICE

Don't worry! You'll get clean copies of all materials at the end of the presentation.

# ANSWER KEY

## Comma(s) Needed

1

4

6

8

11

13

16

## No Comma Needed

2

3

5

7

9

10

12

14

15