COMMA RULES

Comma use:	1. Use commas to join main clauses in compound sentences. 2. Use commas after introductory word groups in a sentence. 3. Use commas to set off items in a series. 4. Use commas to set off nonessential phrases and clauses. 5. Use commas between coordinate adjectives which modify a noun.

Comma Guidelines

1. Use commas before coordination conjunctions (**FANBOYS**: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) when joining two main clauses.	Maria studied for the test**, so** she got a good grade. Katia enjoys swimming**, but** she doesn't like jogging.

2. Use commas after sentence elements that appear before the main clause such as introductory phrases, subordinate clauses, and some transitional words.	Entering the room, Rosa greeted everyone with a smile. As she entered the room, Rosa greeted everyone with a smile.

3. Use commas to set off items in a series.	Edwin plays soccer, baseball, and basketball. Michelle bought the groceries, cooked the dinner, and washed the dishes.

4. Use commas to separate nonessential (nonrestrictive) phrases and clauses that appear in the middle of a sentence or at the end of it. (Nonessential or nonrestrictive clauses can be removed from the sentence without changing its basic meaning.)	The blue car, which is parked in front of my house, is my son's new car. I just met Ben's sister, who is thirty years old. The flood, which was unexpected, destroyed many homes.

5. Use commas between coordinate adjectives that come before a noun they modify.	The wilted, dying plant needs to be replaced. Her bright, shining eyes light up her face.