

COMMA RULES WITH EXERCISES

Comma use:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
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Comma Guidelines

1. Use commas before coordination conjunctions (FANBOYS : for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) when joining two main clauses.	<p>Maria studied for the test, so she got a good grade.</p> <p>Katia enjoys swimming, but she doesn't like jogging.</p>
2. Use commas after sentence elements that appear before the main clause such as introductory phrases, subordinate clauses, and some transitional words.	<p>Entering the room, Rosa greeted everyone with a smile.</p> <p>As she entered the room, Rosa greeted everyone with a smile.</p>
3. Use commas to set off items in a series.	<p>Edwin plays soccer, baseball, and basketball.</p> <p>Michelle bought the groceries, cooked the dinner, and washed the dishes.</p>
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.)	<p>The blue car, which is parked in front of my house, is my son's new car.</p> <p>I just met Ben's sister, who is thirty years old.</p> <p>The flood, which was unexpected, destroyed many homes.</p>
5. Use commas between coordinate adjectives that come before a noun they modify.	<p>The wilted, dying plant needs to be replaced.</p> <p>Her bright, shining eyes light up her face.</p>

Exercise 1

In the space below, write an original sentence for each of the five comma rules.

Exercise II

In the sentences below, insert commas where needed. In the space provided, write the **number** of the guideline that applies to each sentence.

Example: 2 Before the play, we all went out to dinner.

1. _____ I went to the Writing Center but all the computers were in use.
2. _____ His new car which is parked in front of his house gets good mileage.
3. _____ The concert performances are on Thursday Friday Saturday and Sunday.
4. _____ To begin with gather the ingredients you will need for the recipe.
5. _____ Mary Jean couldn't go to the movies because she had an anthropology field trip her chemistry assignment and a tutoring session.
6. _____ When you go to the bookstore see if they have the latest novel from Gabriel García Márquez.
7. _____ Paco is Ben's mysterious black cat.
8. _____ Julia Raybould-Rodgers who teaches English is from England.
9. _____ The lady was wearing a tight red blouse and a short black skirt.
10. _____ First of all you have to follow the directions.