

**Where does that comma
go??**

Commas and their different uses

What is a comma?

Definition: Generally used to separate words or groups of words so that the meaning of the sentence is clear.

Rule #1: USE COMMAS FOR ITEMS IN A SERIES

Words, Phrases, and Clauses
in a series are usually
separated by commas to
show the reader where one
item in the series ends and
the next begins.

Example:

In the early morning,
the lake looked cold,
gray, and calm.

Phrases In a Series

Checking his shoelaces, fastening his helmet strap, and positioning his kneepads, Brandon prepared for the skateboarding competition.

Clauses in a series

The lights dimmed, the curtain rose, and the play began.

We didn't know where we were going, how we would get there, or when we would arrive.

Using Commas to Separate 2 or More Adjectives Before a Noun

Children are small, energetic humans.

Dogs are intelligent, loyal, playful pets.

Rule # 2: Compound Sentences:

Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction when it joins independent clauses in a compound sentence.

Example:

I enjoyed *A Christmas Carol*, but *Romeo and Juliet* is still my favorite play.

Rule #3: Interrupters

Use commas to set off an expression that interrupts a sentence

2 commas are used with interrupters: 1 goes before the expression, and 1 goes after.

EXAMPLE:

Elise, born in Texas, moved to Colorado before coming to Ohio.

Rule # 4: Introductory Words, Phrases, & Clauses

Use a comma after certain introductory elements.

Focusing on *Words* 1st:

Use a comma to set off a mild exclamation such as: *well*, *oh*, or *why* at the beginning of a sentence.

Examples:

1. Well, I think we should ask for help.
2. Yes, I understand the problem.

Focusing on Introductory Phrases & Clauses Now...

Use a comma after an introductory phrase or clause.

If an introductory prep. phrase is long, **USE A COMMA!**

Example: *At night in the desert,* the temperature falls rapidly.

These are NOT all the comma rules!!