

Comma Rules

Place a comma between items in a list.	Put the eggs, bread, and pickles on the counter.
Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) to join two small sentences.	They ran four miles on Friday, but they didn't run Saturday because it was raining.
Do NOT use a comma between two independent sentences. This is a run-on.	WRONG: He walked all the way home, he shut the door.
DO NOT put a comma before the conjunction of a compound predicate.	RIGHT: He walked all the way home. He shut the door.
	WRONG: She rises early in the morning, and goes to work.
	RIGHT: She rises early in the morning and goes to work.
Use a comma to set off an introductory phrase.	When you drive down Common Street, you can see the river.
Use a comma to avoid misreading.	Before eating my cousin always says grace. Before eating, my cousin always says grace.
Use a comma to indicate non-essential information.	Mr. Smith, who used to live in Boston, is my neighbor. The man who won seven gold medals is giving a speech.
Use a comma to set off words of direct address.	When you are finished with the computer, Larry, please put it in the office.
Use a comma between interchangeable adjectives.	The old, brown barn is being painted. The expensive summer resort was now open.
Use after the day and year of a date. Use a comma between the name of the day and the month.	It rained on Monday, January 15, 2014, while I was in Austin.
Use a comma in an address between the street address and city. Use a comma between the city and the state.	He lives at 1234 Apple Lane, Marion, Texas.