**Comma Commandments**

1. Thou shalt use a comma to separate 3 or more items in a list.

   *Kyle likes* cooking, his family, and his pets.*

2. Thou shalt use a comma to join two complete sentences with a conjunction.

   *Amelia is a ferocious eater, and she likes to buy hot dogs in bulk.*
   
   *Julia eats hamburgers and often accompanies Amelia to the market.*

   In the second example, one side of the conjunction is NOT a complete sentence. Therefore, you do NOT need a comma.

3. Thou shalt NOT use only a comma to join two complete sentences without a conjunction (comma splice).

   *Pandas are fluffy; they make good pets.*

   You can use a semicolon or a period here, but NOT a comma.

4. Thou shalt use commas in if/then statements.

   *If you don’t learn the comma commandments, then you’ll be sorry.*
   
   *If you don’t learn the comma commandments, you’ll be sorry.*

   Even if the word “then” is missing, you still put a comma after the “if” clause.
5. Thou shalt use commas when addressing someone directly.
   
   Let’s eat, Grandma.
   Why, Grandma, do you look so frightened?

6. Thou shalt use commas to set off appositives.
   
   Felix, that boy across the hall, is rather strange.

7. Thou shalt use commas to set off introductory elements.
   
   Catching his breath, Juan Pablo checked to see if the Eskimos were still chasing him.

8. Thou shalt use commas between consecutive, interchangeable adjectives.
   
   Chris Hemsworth is a yummy, hunky studmuffin.

9. Thou shalt use commas to set off expressions that interrupt sentence flow.
   
   Ashley does, by the way, eat toenails.

10. Thou shalt use commas to separate contrasting parts of a sentence.
    
    Commas are fun, not boring.