COMMAS

A comma is punctuation that is used to show division and clarity while guiding the reader when to pause. They can be used in a variety of ways:

Correct Comma Usage Rules

In a Series
When listing three or more items, commas are used to separate them:
- Example: He went to the fair and ate a corndog, a fried candy bar, and a funnel cake.
- Example: I have two dogs, a cat, and five fish.

After Introductory Elements
A comma is used after an introductory word, transitional phrase, or clause is used at the beginning of a sentence:
- Example: Suddenly, thunder shook the house.
- Example: After it rained, my yard was a swamp.

Between Adjectives
When a few adjectives are used to describe something, use a comma to separate them:
- Example: She wore a thick, furry sweater.
- Example: He was a hardworking, dependable employee.

In Compound Sentences
When connecting two independent clauses (simple sentences), combine them with a comma and a conjunction (but, or, yet, for, and, nor, so):
- Example: I told her to go to bed, but she stayed up watching television.
- Example: We wanted to go see a movie, yet we could not decide which one.

With Dates and Addresses
Commas are used to separate items in addresses, dates, and citations:
- Example: My address is 1234 N. 5th Ave., Seattle, Washington.
- Example: I am getting married on Sunday, November 12, 2019.

With Dialogue
Commas offset what is being said:
- Example: “The final exam will be very difficult,” Joe said.
- Example: Ashley thought to herself, “I really need to do my homework.”

To Set off Interrupting Phrases
When a phrase interrupts the main thought and can be removed, and the sentence still makes sense, offset it with commas:
- Example: Timmy, my little brother, broke his arm in soccer.
- Example: The Titanic, the most-known sea catastrophe in history, set new standards for ship safety.
Incorrect Comma Usage Examples

Between the Subject and Verb
Don’t use commas to separate the subject and verb:
   Example: The best football player in the world, probably makes a million dollars per game.
   Example: Studying, for tests is a vital skill to learn.

With Two Items
Don’t separate only two items with a comma:
   Example: Shelby, and I are going swimming tomorrow.
   Example: This recipe requires milk, and sugar.