COMMAS
EVERYONE’S LEAST FAVORITE PUNCTUATION

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:

**IN A SERIES**
When listing three or more items, commas are used to separate them:

He went to the fair and ate a corndog, a fried candy bar, and a funnel cake.

I have 2 dogs, a cat, and 5 fish.

**AFTER INTRODUCTORY ELEMENTS**
A comma is used after an introductory word, transitional phrase, or clause is used at the beginning of a sentence:

Suddenly, thunder shook the house.

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:

She wore a thick, furry sweater.

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):

I told her to go to bed, but she stayed up watching television.

We wanted to go see a movie, yet we couldn’t decide which one.
Don’t use commas to separate the subject and verb: The best football player in the world, probably makes a million dollars per game. ← This is incorrect.

Don’t separate only two items with a comma: Shelby, and I are going swimming tomorrow. ← This is incorrect.