


Correct Comma Usage

How to have some comma sense...

What's the deal with commas?!?



Let's eat Grandpa!
Let's eat, Grandpa!

COMMAS

They save lives!

Rule 1

- Use commas to separate independent clauses when they are joined by a coordinating conjunction: *and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet*.
- Examples:
 - The game was over, **but** the crowd refused to leave.
 - Yesterday was her brother's birthday, **so** she took him out to dinner.

Rule 2

- Use commas after introductory phrases or words. Common starter words include *after, although, as, because, if, since, when, while, however*.
- Examples:
 - **While** I was eating, the cat scratched at the door.
 - **When** the snow stops falling, we'll shovel the driveway.
 - **However**, you may not be satisfied with the results.

Rule 3

- Use a pair of commas in the middle of a sentence to set up phrases or words that are not essential to the meaning of the sentence.
- Questions to Ask:
 - If you leave out the phrase, does the sentence still make sense?
 - Does the phrase or word interrupt the flow of ideas?
 - If you move the phrase or word to a different position in the sentence, does the sentence still make sense?
 - If you answer “yes” to one or more of these questions, then you need to use commas around the nonessential phrase or word.
- Examples:
 - That Tuesday, **which happens to be my birthday**, is the only day when I am available to meet.
 - She was, **however**, too tired to make the trip.
 - Tom, **the captain of the team**, was injured in the game.

Rule 4

- Use commas in a list or series to separate three or more words or phrases.
- Examples:
 - Her grocery list included apples, lemons, bananas, and watermelon.
 - The candidate promised to lower taxes, protect the environment, reduce crime, and end unemployment.

Rule 5

- Use commas to set off geographical names and items in dates.
- Examples:
 - Birmingham, Alabama, gets its name from Birmingham, England.
 - July 22, 1959, was a momentous day in his life.

Rule 6

- Use a comma to set off a quotation or dialogue.
- Examples:
 - John said, “I’ll see you tomorrow.”
 - “I was able,” she answered, “to complete the assignment.”

So follow these rules and you'll be sure
to have comma sense....



COMMA

comma, comma, comma, comma, chameleon