

# When Should I Use a Comma?


Just Remember LUCI!

# LUCI

- Listing
- Unnecessary Words
- Connecting Words
- Introductory Phrases


# Listing –

## *L Commas*

-  Use L commas to separate words in a list. Put a comma before the “and.”
- Add L Commas: My favorite authors are Suzanne Collins Harlan Coben and Anne Tyler.
- Use L Commas: I put on my ski boots. I picked up my poles. I walked toward the lift at Winter Park.


# Listing –

## *L Commas cont.*

-  L commas can also be used to separate TWO strong adjectives before a noun.
- Add L Commas: Jack Russell Terriers are small energetic dogs.
- Use L Commas: A rusty stove heated the entire room.  
An old stove heated the entire room.

# Unnecessary Words –

## *U Commas*

-  Use U commas to set off words in a sentence that are not needed, like extra words that add detail. U commas usually come in twos, and the words in between them can be removed. U commas usually describe the subject of the sentence.

# Unnecessary Words – *U Commas cont.*

- Example: Andrew, my son, loves to ride his new bike.
- Add U Commas: My vehicle a gold Honda Pilot is always filthy.
- Use L Commas: Melissa introduced me to my husband. Melissa is my old roommate.


# Unnecessary Words –

## *U Commas cont.*

- Example: My favorite movie is *The Goonies*, which stars Sean Astin and Martha Plimpton.
- Add a U Comma: I was born in Illinois the Land of Lincoln.
- Use a U Comma: I write letters to my oldest nephew. I write letters to Sam.

# Connecting Words –

## *C Commas*


-  Use commas before a coordinating conjunction that combines two complete sentences.
- Add C Commas: Matt threw something at the trashcan and Mrs. Martin yelled at him for playing basketball in English class.
- Use C Commas: You can skip homework assignments. You won't do as well on the quiz.



# Connecting Words - FANBOYS

- Here is a list of coordinating conjunctions that are used in compound sentences:
  - For
  - And
  - Nor
  - But
  - Or
  - Yet
  - So

# Introductory Words/Phrases – *Commas*

-  Use a comma after a phrase that starts the sentence. This is another way of combining sentences, but you will need to add words at the beginning of the sentences like *even though*, *however*, *after*, *actually*, *first*, *because*, and *as*.
- Example: When Kelly hurried into her house after a long day at work, she forgot her baby was still in the backseat of her car.

# Introductory Words/Phrases – *I Commas cont.*

- Add I Commas: Even though the Wolverines had a new coach they still had a losing season.
- Use I Commas: The fence wasn't sturdy. John lost his balance and fell.

# LUCI Review

- *The secret to LUCI is IF YOU CAN'T LABEL IT, YOU DON'T NEED IT!*
- *Remember: There can be more than one kind of comma in a sentence.*

# How to Figure Out Which Comma is Being Used...

- Is it a list of things? If yes, it's an L Comma.
- Are there two commas? Can you take out the words in the middle, and the sentence still makes sense? If yes, it's a U Comma.
- Do FANBOYS come before the comma? Are there TWO complete sentences? If yes, it's a C Comma.
- Is the complete sentence after the comma? Do you see a transition? If yes, it's an I Comma.