

Unit 1 Language

Comma Usage

Know these terms:

• **Clause**

- A group of words that contain a subject and a verb
 - May or may not be a sentence

• **Phrase**

- A group of words that does not contain a subject or verb
 - Prepositional phrase
 - Ex: Under the bridge
 - Over the rainbow

Rule 1:

- Use commas to separate items in a list.
- Please bring paper, pencils, pens, and sticky notes to class.
- Lisa, Lauren, Lizzie, and Louie are the Johnson's quadruplets.
- The recipe calls for spinach, ricotta, eggs, and parmesan cheese.

Rule 2:

- To separate introductory phrases, clauses, or words
 - To separate dependent clauses from independent clauses
- After their walk, the dogs were exhausted.
 - Yes, we will be attending the party.
 - The storm was severe; therefore, many flights were cancelled.
 - Because it's warm outside, we turned on the air-conditioning.
 - While we were out, the package was delivered.

Rule 3:

- To set off from the sentence, clauses that add information but are not necessary.
- The new student, in the denim jacket, transferred from South Carolina.
- My Aunt Mary, who talks on the phone all day long, lives in Chicago.
- My dog Cubby, a Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier, can jump three feet off the ground.

Rule 4:

- In dates

- Between day and year

- May 31, 2020

- For geographical locations and addresses

- Between city and State/country
 - Between street, city, state

- Aurora, Illinois
 - Venice, Italy
 - East Aurora High School, 500 Tomcat Lane, Aurora, IL 60505

Rule 5

- When using quotation marks to show dialogue or cite a source

- Santa said, "Ho, ho, ho!"
- "Look!" shouted dad, "There's a bear!"
- "Go ahead. Make my day," is a famous line from a movie.
- According to the author, "4 out of 5 dentists prefer Trident gum."
- "Proper nutrition is critical," reported the dietitian, Dr. Sarah Jones.

Let's Practice: Put commas where needed.

1. Bring the following to the DMV to get your license: a birth certificate proof of address and your driver's permit.
2. While they were sleeping burglars broke into the Smith's garage.
3. The chef the man in the white coat with a mustache came to the table to say hello.
4. School started on August 14 2019 much earlier than last year.

Let's Practice: Put commas where needed.

5. "Please" the child begged "can I have a candy bar?"
6. Sam Jerry and Jamal were moved up to the varsity football team.
7. Reading is a great way to relax and escape reality although many teenagers disagree.
8. Simon has visited both Birmingham Alabama and Birmingham England.