



## The Comma

- ▶ Use commas to separate three or more items in a series.

Any Tom, Dick, or Harry can learn to use a comma.

- ▶ Use commas between two or more adjectives that modify the same noun or pronoun

He is a kind, considerate, caring individual.

- ▶ Use commas to separate dates or locations

Adrian was born on February 27, 1957.

Charlotte can be found at 22 Acacia Avenue, London, England.

- ▶ Use commas to isolate appositives from the rest of the sentence. An appositive is a word or phrase that has the same meaning as the preceding noun phrase.

Mick Jagger, the lead singer of the Rolling Stones, is quite rich.

- ▶ Use commas to separate non-restrictive phrases, or clauses.

The wallet, which was full of money, was found on the street.

The phrase 'which was full of money' is non-restrictive because it merely adds additional information about the wallet

- ▶ Use commas between independent clauses that are joined by co-ordinating conjunctions (and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet).

I like candy floss, but Kelly prefers candy apples.

- ▶ Use the comma after a word, phrase, or clause that comes before an independent clause.

Homer, you're the man!

Frankly, no matter how hard I try, I'll never be able to forget you.  
If you think I'm kidding, you don't know me very well.

## Practice Exercise

Add commas wherever necessary in the following sentences:

1. Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we diet.
2. If you're interested I have an extra ticket for the show
3. Are you trying to be funny or did you mean what you just said?
4. Dave plays guitar Steve plays the bass and Nicko plays the drums.
5. As a rule you should never try to pet a skunk a wolf or a hyena.
6. Zeke ate four tacos two burritos and a plate of nachos.
7. My brother who lives in the States is coming for a visit on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
8. In July the weather is usually hot hazy and humid.
9. I can sing and I can dance but I cannot wear leather pants.
10. Rod knew that he was going to be late so he went back to sleep.
11. Writing a good letter of application isn't difficult if you're careful.
12. Alice Munro one of Canada's best-known novelists spends the summer in Clinton Ontario and the winter in Comox British Columbia.
13. The hat that she wore was large floppy and had a blue feather.
14. Gertrude you have a spider in your hair and that's not a good look for you.
15. Captain Kirk and Dr. McCoy beamed down to the planet but Spock stayed on the bridge with Uhura Scotty Chekov and Sulu.
16. Whether he meant to or not Carlos stepped on my foot.
17. The police had several leads but none of them helped them to catch the criminal.
18. Elephants are afraid of mice yet mice are not afraid of elephants.
19. Usually a trip to the mall is nothing but a waste of time money and energy so you are better off going to the market.

## **Answers**

1. Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we diet.
2. If you're interested, I have an extra ticket for the show.
3. Are you trying to be funny, or did you mean what you just said?
4. Dave plays guitar, Steve plays the bass, and Nicko plays the drums.
5. As a rule, you should never try to pet a skunk, a wolf, or a hyena.
6. Zeke ate four tacos, two burritos, and a plate of nachos.
7. My brother, who lives in the States, is coming for a visit on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
8. In July, the weather is usually hot, hazy, and humid.
9. I can sing and I can dance, but I cannot wear leather pants.
10. Rod knew that he was going to be late, so he went back to sleep.
11. Writing a good letter of application isn't difficult, if you're careful.
12. Alice Munro, one of Canada's best-known novelists, spends the summer in Clinton, Ontario, and the winter in Comox, British Columbia.
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14. Gertrude, you have a spider in your hair, and that's not a good look for you.
15. Captain Kirk and Dr. McCoy beamed down to the planet, but Spock stayed on the bridge with Uhura, Scotty, Chekov, and Sulu.
16. Whether he meant to or not, Carlos stepped on my foot.
17. The police had several leads, but none of them helped them to catch the criminal.
18. Elephants are afraid of mice, yet mice are not afraid of elephants.
19. Usually, a trip to the mall is nothing but a waste of time, money, and energy, so you are better off going to the market.