

Commas

When to use commas (,):

- **After a long introductory phrase or clause.**
*While heating last week's leftovers, Susie Jo read *The Star*.*
 - **To separate elements in a list or series (called serial commas).**
Commas help make ideas clear.
Unclear: *Jim stopped in the children's maternity and toy departments.*
Clear: *Jim stopped in the children's, maternity, and toy departments.*
 - **To separate independent clauses joined by conjunctions.**
Julia loved Justin, but he seemed oblivious.
 - **To set off a phrase that describes a noun or phrase.**
David Copperfield, the magician, has vanished.
Pat's ancient tent, a green canvas monster, collapsed last night.
 - **To set off less important clauses. Use commas with "which" clauses.**
Wigs, which come in all colors, are great for bad hair days.
 - **In direct address or for greetings in friendly letters.**
Henry, shape up.
I'm speaking to you, Judy.
Dear Joel,
My dearest Buttercup,
 - **To separate names and titles; to separate names of cities, states and countries.**
Jasper Sludge, president of Sludge Sanitation, hates recycling.
Paris, France
Siren, Wisconsin
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