

Commas in Sentence Parts*Reteaching*

In a series of three or more, use a comma after every item in the series except the last one.

They grow beans, peas, and squash in their garden.

Use a comma after *first*, *second*, and so on when they introduce a series.

Follow these steps when preparing your garden: first, turn the soil over; second, break it up; and third, plant the seeds.

Use a comma between two or more adjectives of equal rank that modify the same noun.

I hope to make healthful, nutritious meals from my garden produce.

Use a comma after introductory words or mild interjections such as *oh*, *yes*, *no*, and *well*.

Use a comma after an introductory prepositional phrase that contains additional prepositional phrases.

At the break of day, I water my flowers.

Use a comma after verbal phrases and adverb clauses that are used as introductory elements.

After the storm ended, I examined the damage to my crops.

Use commas to set off one or more words that interrupt the flow of thought in a sentence.

Tending a garden, I believe, improves my mental health.

Use commas to set off nouns of direct address.

Doug, go pick some tomatoes for a salad.

Use commas to set off nonessential appositives.

My youngest sister, Amy, helps me weed my garden.

Using Commas Correctly

Insert commas where necessary in the following sentences.

1. Dickens's character Ebenezer Scrooge was a mean stingy old man.
2. Your paper must include the following: first an outline; second three to five pages of text; third endnotes; and fourth a bibliography.
3. Emily's favorite poets are Alice Walker Gwendolyn Brooks and Anne Sexton.
4. Yes I would be delighted to come to your party.
5. Picnickers brought sandwiches potato salad lemonade and fruit.
6. After the concert ended the audience asked for three encores.
7. In our tent beside the river we enjoyed a peaceful night's sleep.
8. Pay close attention Carolyn while I show you how to crochet.
9. Sulfur has a strong unpleasant smell.
10. My favorite rock group the Creed is appearing tonight at the Odeon.
11. Examining the ground for shells we slowly made our way down the beach.

More Commas

Reteaching

Use a comma whenever the reader might otherwise be confused.

After the war, veterans paraded down Main Street.

Use commas to set off a direct quotation from explanatory words such as *she said* or *Pat suggested*.

"I'd like to help," she said, "by decorating the float."

Use a comma before the conjunction that joins the two independent clauses in a compound sentence.

The parade begins at the town square, and it ends at the War Memorial.

Use commas to set off nonessential clauses.

The high school band, which performed at the state fair, will march.

Use a comma after the salutation and the closing of a friendly letter.

Use a comma between the day of the month and the year (and after the year in a sentence), between the name of a city and state or country and after the state or country, and after each item of an address (but not before or after the ZIP code).

Using Commas Correctly

Insert commas where necessary in the following sentences.

1. Dear Aunt Ruth

We are having our annual Baylor Home Days parade next weekend. I hope you can join us.

Your niece

Cyndy

2. Kirsten asked "Who is the Grand Marshal of this year's parade?"

3. "Mr. Perkins who is the town pharmacist was chosen this year" Carlos answered "and I hear he is very pleased."

4. The parade begins at noon on July 15 which happens to be my birthday.

5. You'll be proud to say that you come from Baylor Ohio on July 15.

6. I know that parades are held all over the country during the summer but this one will be special to us.

7. Community organizations, which plan their floats for months, work feverishly on the night before the parade.

8. On the morning of the parade organizers meet early in the school gym.

9. They go over their plans and they double-check the parade route with the police department.

10. The best parade was on July 14 1995 when the Governor joined our celebration.

11. "Celebrating our heritage" Marty said "brings us all closer together."

12. Dear Cyndy

Thanks for inviting me to your town parade. I had a wonderful time in Baylor Ohio and I would love to come back next year.

Fondly

Aunt Ruth