

## Punctuation Rules Overview

### Comma Rules (Pg. 569-586)

1. Use a comma to separate items in a series.

Examples:

- Words: My sisters and I collect baseball cards, coins, hats, rocks, and stamps.
- Phrases: We found information in reference books, in magazine articles, and in newspaper articles.
- Clauses: The school dance will be a success if Sergio sets up a refreshment table, if Maya hires a good band, and if plenty of students attend.

2. Use a comma when two or more adjectives precede a noun.

Example:

- Running that road race was a fun, challenging, exhausting experience.

3. Use a comma before a conjunction (*and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet*) when they join complete sentences (independent clauses).

Examples:

- Claudia wanted to catch the bus, **but** it had already left.
- I want to visit the museum, **and** Jaki wants to go with me.

4. Use a comma in a direct address.

Examples:

- **Ida**, do you have my sneakers?
- Thank you, **Kalil**, for your dedication and hard work.

5. Use a comma to set off nonessential items.

Examples:

- My cousin, **walking home one day**, found a large snapping turtle.
- That scarf, **which is real silk**, was made in India.

6. Use a comma after introductory elements, such as interjections, exclamations, and phrases.

Examples:

- **No**, the restaurant is not closing early. (*interjection*)
- **Hey**, didn't we meet at the carnival last year? (*interjection*)
- **Practicing her guitar one day**, Pasha taught herself to play that song. (*participial phrase*)
- **On the sidewalk behind the school**, squirrels gathered to look for food. (*prepositional phrase*)

7. Use a comma to set off parenthetical expressions (a side remark that adds information or relates ideas, such as *nevertheless, for instance, however, that is, therefore*).

Examples:

- Jackson, **on the other hand**, would make a great assistant.
- **For instance**, he is kind and charitable.

8. Use a comma in **short** independent clauses in a series (otherwise use semicolons for long independent clauses).

Examples:

- All day long we dusted, we vacuumed, and we polished.