

Eight Common Commas

1. Commas used after an introductory word, phrase, or clause.

Because Sheala was nervous about the test, she forgot her study guide at home.

2. Commas used before a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, so, yet, for).

I love home-made frosting, but not yours.

3. Commas used to separate more than three items in a series or words, phrases, or clauses.

Trees can be harvested for gums, oils, rubber, turpentine, pitch, cork, and charcoal.

4. Commas used to separate two or more adjectives modifying the same noun.

The fresh, brisk breeze was delightful.

5. Commas used to set off non-essential information.

Benjamin Franklin, write of the almanac, made an outstanding discovery.

6. Commas used to set off interjections beginning a sentence.

“Oh, cripes!” declared Vernon.

7. Commas used to set off conjunctive adverbs (accordingly, consequently, finally, furthermore, however, moreover, nevertheless, otherwise, similarly, then, therefore, thus).

Nevertheless, the truth shall prevail.

8. Commas used to set off quotations.

“Often,” Judy began, “much can be said for those who do not lie.”