

# Commas Matter

## Grammar Unit Guide

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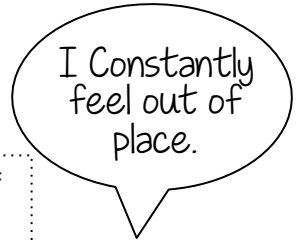
## Commas Matter

- level one -

### LET'S GET REAL

Commas are tricky - like sneak into the graduation party just for the food, eat and leave tricky – but their reign of terror is over. THEY NEED TO BE PUT IN THEIR PLACE.

Commas are meant to prevent confusion and misunderstanding. A common mistake people make is that they think a pause signals a comma - **THIS IS NOT THE CASE!** A pause of breath does not always signal a comma.



**QUICK RULE #1:** The pause that signals a comma usually includes a change of pitch- give it a try!

**Example #1:** Let's eat, Grandma! (*aw, how nice! You have your grandma over for dinner!*)

**Example #2:** Let's eat Grandma! (*..... I'll pass, thanks [please don't eat me.]*)

**Note: THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS:** The 'said' clause – A pause that indicates a comma is when the direct object is a direct quotation following a verb.

Example: He said, "I love you." (no pitch change)

Remember:

- Use a **comma** between words or groups of words that are in a series.  
-EXAMPLE: Corn, green beans, and tomatoes are staples in every home garden.
- Use a **comma** before a conjunction in a compound sentence.  
-EXAMPLE: The farmers planted in the spring, and they will work long hours in the fall to harvest.
- Use a **comma** after a subordinate clause when it begins in a sentence.  
-EXAMPLE: After we went to a movie, we went out to eat.

**Directions:** Add commas where needed in the sentence below.

1. Alec Leann and Madison are planning a welcome home party for their friend.
2. It is their friend's first time home all summer and they want to make it special.
3. They have invited the people that live in his neighborhood his family that lives close by and his friends from school.
4. Even though he doesn't get home until tonight this will be hard to plan it in his own house.
5. Trey is involved friendly and active in many things.
6. For their surprise to work everyone will have to stay off of social media all day so he doesn't see what they are doing.
7. This is especially hard for Madison but she will have to deal with it for one day.
8. Since every Friday his family has a big dinner it was no surprise to Trey that there were a lot of cars in his driveway.

Name: Key Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

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