

# *Commas!*

“Students often place commas throughout their papers as if they are sprinkling raisins on their oatmeal.”

## 5 General Comma Rules

1. Use a comma to separate items in a series (like a list).
2. Use a comma with a conjunction to separate two independent clauses.
3. Use a comma to set off a phrase or clause you are inserting into a sentence, usually to provide more information for the reader.
4. Use a comma after an opening clause, word, or phrase.
5. Use a comma to follow the rules of times, dates, names, etc.

## Rule #1

Use a comma to separate items in a series (like a list).

Ex: I need my toothbrush, toothpaste, and soap.

Ex: He was a tall, handsome, funny man.

Ex: I love winter, spring, summer, *and* fall!

## Rule #2

Use a comma with a conjunction to separate two independent clauses.

Ex: My dad wants me to be a doctor, but my mom wants me to be a lawyer.

Ex: Josh does not like spinach, nor does he like broccoli.

## Rule #3

Use a comma to set off a phrase or clause you are inserting into a sentence, usually to provide more information for the reader.

Ex: Sometimes if you use too much hair product, like gel or mousse, your hair will look very stiff and shiny.

Ex: She is, as you can tell, very nervous up on stage.

## Rule #4

Use a comma after an opening clause, word, or phrase.

Ex: Good morning, my name is Kristin.

Ex: After work, I will go to the gym.

Ex: Because it is spring, my allergies are really bad!

## Rule #5

Use a comma to follow the rules of dates, names, quotations, etc.

Ex: I live in Portland, Oregon

Ex: May 2, 2016

Ex: My dentist said, “Ok now, open wide!”

Ex: “Ok now, open wide,” said my dentist.

## Let's practice together...

What's wrong with this sentence?

*As you can see mice are very small animals.*

What's wrong with this sentence?

*"Hey" said the boy "you stepped on my foot.*

What's wrong with this sentence?

*I finished reading a book which was the sixth one in a month!*



## Let's practice together...

What's wrong with this sentence?

*We have a two-hour layover in Cleveland Ohio.*

What's wrong with this sentence?

*The girl wore a soft fuzzy blanket wrapped around her shoulders.*

What's wrong with this sentence?

*Bob who is a carpenter just finished building the kitchen cabinets.*