



AVOID GOING COMMA CRAZY, OR PUTTING YOUR READER IN A COMMA-COMA

People love using commas, and their favorite reason to use a comma is because, "it sounds good," which is the worst possible reason to use a comma. WORST. POSSIBLE. REASON.

When You Should Use a Comma

1. Comma FANBOYS-->

Use a comma to combine independent clauses with a conjunction (for and nor but or yet so). The comma and the FANBOY is the glue that joins those independent clauses.

Examples:

You sing the ballad, and I will play the guitar accompaniment.

She varnished the table, but Tony sanded it.

I have never gone to Disney Land, yet I know all the characters that live there.

2. Use a comma to separate items in a series (3 or more items).

Examples:

Denise has creativity, curiosity, and motivation.

Our pizza had pepperonis, mushrooms, black olives, and sardines.

*done just use 1 comma—that changes everything

Examples:

Chandler called the exterminators, Candy and Melissa.

--in this sentence, the exterminators are Candy and Melissa. Chandler only called the exterminators, who are named Candy and Melissa.

Chandler called the exterminators, Candy, and Melissa.

--in this sentence, Chandler called three different people,

See...that extra comma, or lack of, changes the meaning entirely.

3. Use commas between two or more adjectives that modify the same noun.

Example:

The Vikings were strong, brave, and vicious fighters.

The sisters sang a long, beautiful song.

The beautiful and muscular Viking women sang a long, beautiful song.



4. Use a comma when the sentence starts with a dependent clause, prepositional phrase, or other introductory item

Examples:

Although I love sad song, I do not like to cry.

During the song, Mike started to cry.

Slowly, he wiped the tears from his eyes.

5. Use commas with interrupting words that break the flow of a sentence.

Examples:

He came, finally, to get the baby.

He told me, can you believe it, that I was ugly.

Avocado, according to experts, is a great source of omega-3.

6. Use commas with appositives

Examples:

Jesse, the girl in my class, sat near Dave.

The plum plant, in the corner of the room, started to die.

The smell, coming from the plum plant, was oddly fragrant.

7. Use commas when directly addressing a noun.

Examples:

Tell me, Darla, where were you last night?

Dave, can anybody corroborate your alibi?

Let's eat, Grandma.

Let's eat Grandma!



Let's eat, Grandma!

Commas Save Lives

8. Use a comma with words that set off explanatory words for direct quotations.

Examples:

Nelly said, "She wants to build a row boat!"

"Bring the alphabet soup to me," declared Jared.