



COMMA RULES 101

# WHY USE A COMMA?

**We're going to learn  
to cut and paste kids!**

Commas matter.



LET'S EAT GRANDPA!

LET'S EAT, GRANDPA!

C O M M A S

Can Save Lives

# RULE #1: USE COMMAS TO SEPARATE ITEMS IN A SERIES OR A LIST

Watch what happens if you don't use commas correctly...



## RULE #2: USE A COMMA BEFORE A FANBOYS

When you are hooking up clauses and sentences you use a FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)



# FANBOYS AND SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTIONS RULES

Watch this video to learn about FANBOYS and Subordinate Conjunctions and where commas fit best



# RULE #3: USE A COMMA BETWEEN A LIST OF ADJECTIVES

What are adjectives? (I know this video is cheesy, but you'll remember what an adjective is ;)



Just like listening things in a sentence, when you list adjectives you need to separate them with a comma.

EXP: We bought two dozen boxes of mouth-watering, peanut butter Girl Scout cookies.

*~The highlighted words are the adjectives do describe the Girl Scout cookies.*



# RULE #4: PLACE A COMMA AFTER INTRODUCTORY PHRASES THAT TELL WHERE, WHEN, WHY, OR HOW

As you watch the video, think about the reasons the girl talks about in the video why varying sentence structure is interesting.

If you start sentences with any of these words, you should put a comma after those phrases, too.

across	during	out of
after	except	outside
against	except for	over
along	excepting	past
along with	for	regarding
among	from	round
apart from	in	since
around	in addition to	through
as	in back of	throughout
at for	in case of	till
at	in front of	to
because of	in place of	toward
before	inside	under
behind	in spite of	underneath
below	instead of	unlike
beneath	into	until
beside	like	up
between	near	upon
beyond	next	up to
but	of	with
by	off	within
by means of	on	without

# TRY RULE #4 OUT ON A PIECE OF PAPER. REMEMBER THE “TEST” THAT WAS TALKED ABOUT IN THE VIDEO

Rewrite these sentences with a correct use of commas in them. Bring them to me when you are done, so I can check them.

1. With all the things Mom and I have planned she won't have time to be board.
2. As though nothing had happened she sat down comfortably
3. After many days at the mine the workers were tired and angry.
4. Unless the weather changes soon we will have to water the lawn.

*\*Use the chart below to help you out with prepositions to look for.*

## 25 Most Common Prepositions

- |           |             |             |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. of     | 11. as      | 21. without |
| 2. in     | 12. into    | 22. before  |
| 3. to     | 13. like    | 23. under   |
| 4. for    | 14. through | 24. around  |
| 5. with   | 15. after   | 25. among   |
| 6. on     | 16. over    |             |
| 7. at     | 17. between |             |
| 8. from   | 18. out     |             |
| 9. by     | 19. against |             |
| 10. about | 20. during  |             |



# RULE #5: SEPARATE ANY NONESSENTIAL WORDS OR GROUPS OF WORDS FROM THE REST OF THE SENTENCE, WITH A COMMA

When you follow this rule, you should be able to take the word(s) from the sentence, and it will still be a complete sentence.

Fred, *who often cheats*, is just harming himself.

My niece, *wearing a yellow jumpsuit*, is playing in the living room.

The Green party candidate, *who had the least money*, lost the election.

Apples, *which are my favorite fruit*, are the main ingredient in this recipe.

Professor Benson, *grinning from ear to ear*, announced that the exam would be tomorrow.

Write one of these sentences on the board without the clause to show how it is still a sentence.

# 5 COMMA RULES REVIEW

**Rule #1:** Use commas to separate items in a series.

The boy's favorite colors were red, blue, purple, green, and pink.

**Rule #2:** Use commas between coordinate adjectives.

The sweet, smiling baby was a joy to be around.

**Rule #3:** Use a comma before and, but, or, nor, for, so, or yet (FANBOYS)

She wanted to run away, but the thought of more jail time stopped her.

**Rule #4:** Place a comma after introductory phrases that tell where, when, why, or how.

At the beginning of the 2014 summer, my son broke his arm.

**Rule #5:** Separate with a comma any nonessential words or groups of words from the rest of the sentence

Superman, the man of steel, once again saved the day.