

Comma DOs and DON'Ts

COMMA DOs		Example
1	Use a comma before any coordinating conjunction (and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet) that links two independent clauses.	She may be short, but she is strong.
2	Use a comma after a dependent clause that starts a sentence.	When I was little, I loved ice cream.
3	Use commas to offset appositives from the rest of the sentence.	My childhood friend, Anna, loves baseball.
4	Use commas to separate items in a series.	I need oranges, envelopes, and tape.
5	Use a comma after introductory adverbs.	Interestingly, that's not what happened.
6	Use a comma when attributing quotes.	Then he said, "No!"
7	Use a comma when the first word of the sentence is freestanding "yes" or "no."	Yes, you may have a cookie.
8	Use a comma when directly addressing someone or something in a sentence.	Brian, come with me!
9	Use a comma between two adjectives that modify the same noun.	He had long, wavy hair down to his knees.

COMMA DON'Ts		Example
1	Don't use a comma to separate two independent clauses.	Game of Thrones might be the best show ever, I watch it every Sunday night.
2	Don't use a comma where you might pause if you were speaking.	Because, I don't really want to.