



*Commas,  
by*

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# What is a comma?

According to the Oxford Languages Website, the definition of a comma is a punctuation mark (,) indicating a pause between parts of a sentence. It is also used to separate items in a list and to mark the place of thousands in a large numeral.

Commas can be described as a separator. You use commas in sentences to separate things like: transition words, descriptive words or phrases, adjacent items, and complete ideas

Commas are also used to separate similar items in a list.



# Commas & When to use them



## **Transition words:**

Commas before and after transition words help to separate them from the sentence ideas they are describing. You would typically see a comma in the beginning or middle of your sentence. It is important to add a comma after any transition word you are using.

An example of a transition word is:

In other words, the point of her story was inconclusive to the evidenced we had gathered.



## **Adjacent Items:**

When working with adjacent items, you would separate them so that the reader can consider each item individually.



## **Descriptive phrases:**

Descriptive phrases need to be separated from the things that they describe.

Descriptive phrases tend to come at the very beginning of a sentence, right after the subject of a sentence, or at the very end of a sentence.



# ALL ABOUT COMMAS



## Conjunctions & Lists

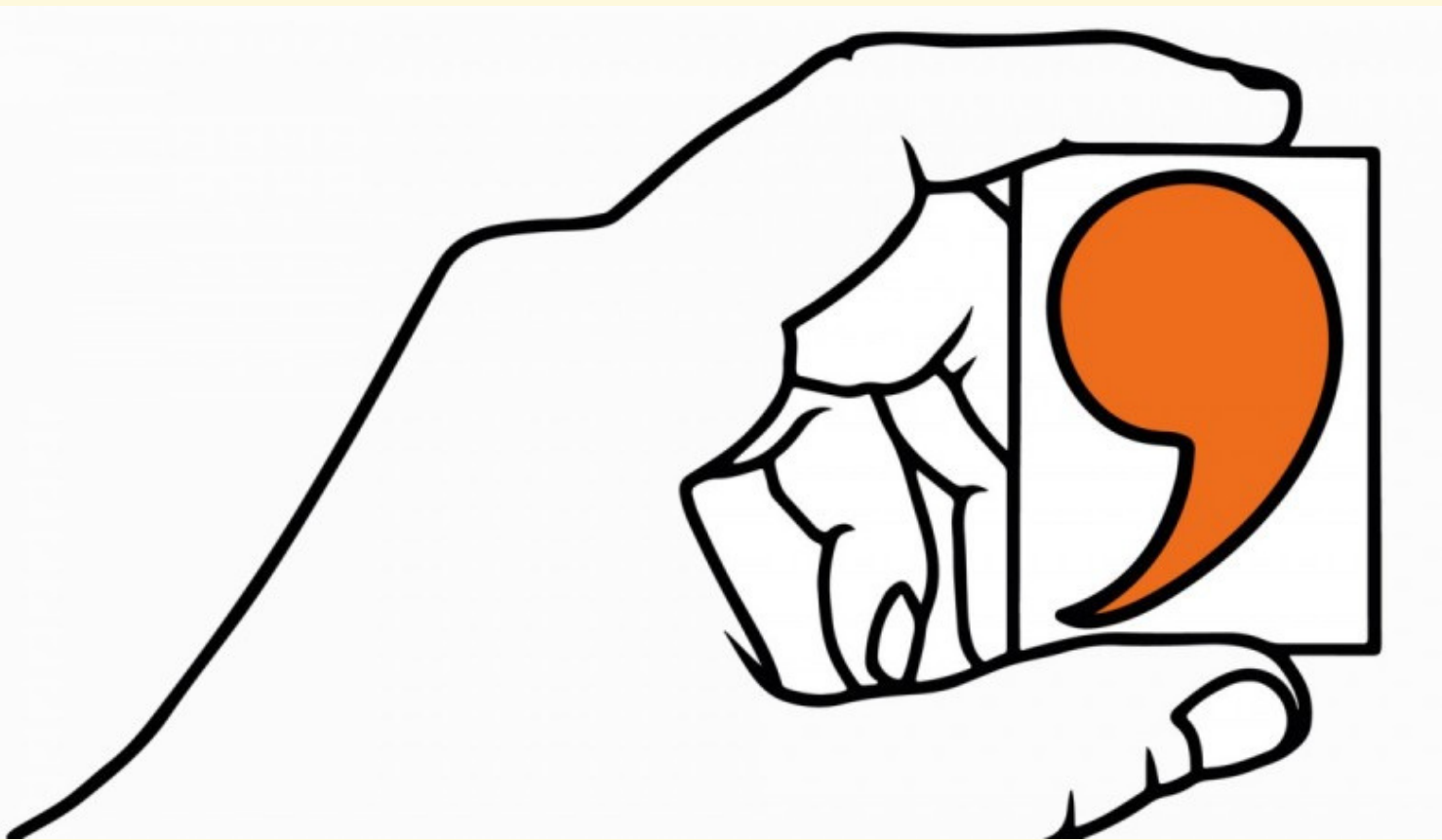
- Coordinating conjunctions are words that join two words or phrases of equal importance.

An example of conjunctions and commas is:  
We studied for a test, while they ate lunch.

- When writing a list, you typically use what is called the "serial comma." The serial comma is the comma before the conjunction. It can also provide clarity in certain situations as well as preventing the end of a series from appearing to be a parenthetical.

An example of a list is as follows:

I love the colors black, purple, red, and my favorite of all, yellow.



## Commas and when not to use them

- Do not use a comma to separate the paired parts in paired compound subjects or compound verbs.

An example is:

She goes to school, and studies at the library afterwards.

- Do not use commas to separate a noun and its modifying adjectives when the adjectives come before the noun.

An example:

The bright, red jewel was a ruby.

Cited:  
[englishplus.com](http://englishplus.com)

**THE**  
**END**