

Comma Rules

✳ You must memorize all rules with their examples for your test!

1. Items in a series.

EX: Adam, Robert, Bill, and many other people hold paintball wars.

2. Two or more equal adjectives before a noun.

EX: The warm, muggy day was miserable.

3. Conjunction in a compound sentence.

EX: Jimmy bought an old clunker, but Robert bought a new $\frac{3}{4}$ ton.

4. Nonessential adjective clauses/nonessential participial phrases.

EX: Robert, who ran toward the bushes, slipped and fell.
Robert, running toward the bushes, slipped and fell.

5. Oh, Yes, No, Well, and Why starting a sentence.

EX: Oh, I forgot.

6. Introductory participial phrases.

EX: Returning to the game, Robert made a slam dunk.

7. Series of introductory prepositional phrases.

EX: In the back of the pickup, we keep our tools.

8. Introductory Adverb Clause

EX: When Brent learns these rules, he will pass.

9. Appositives and appositive phrases

EX: Brent, a brilliant student, made all A's.

10. Noun in direct address

EX: Jason, will you help me?



11. Parenthetical Expression

EX: Matt, however, never learns anything.

12. Dates and addresses

EX: I was born on July 3, 1958, in Harrison, AR 72601.

13. Closing and greeting in a friendly letter

EX: Dear Melinda Forever yours,

14. Titles and degrees

EX: John doe, D.V.M., works on dogs.

15. Contrasting expressions

EX: Jason, not Adam, flunked English.

16. Echo Question

EX: You are here, aren't you?

17. Adjectives in appositive position

EX: Mike, harsh and dangerous, is not someone you want to meet.

18. Direct Quotation

EX: Adam said, "Don't do that."

