

Grammar Warm-Ups To Prepare You for English 10

Exam!

Let's eat grandma!



Let's eat, grandma!

**PUNCTUATION
SAVES LIVES!**



STOP CLUBBING, BABY SEALS

Once again, punctuation makes all the difference ...

Commas in a Series

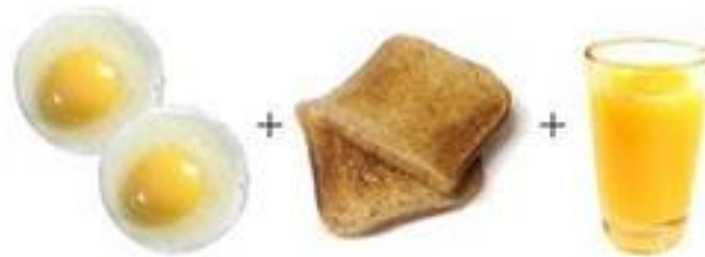
- Use commas to separate **three or more** words, phrases, or clauses in a series.
- A **conjunction** (**and, or, but**) goes between the last two items of the series.
- While some authorities say that the comma before the conjunction is optional, leaving it out may cause confusion, so it is better to include it.
- **Incorrect:** The street was filled with angry protestors, shouting spectators and police.
(Leaving out the last comma makes it look like the police were shouting, too.)
- **Correct:** The street was filled with angry protestors, shouting spectators, and police.
(Makes it clearer.)

There's even jokes about it!

WHY I STILL USE THE OXFORD COMMA

WITH:

I had eggs, toast, and orange juice.



WITHOUT:

I had eggs, toast and orange juice.



With the **Oxford Comma**:

We invited the rhinoceri, Washington, and Lincoln.



Without the Oxford Comma:

We invited the rhinoceri, Washington and Lincoln.



Words, Clauses, and Phrases...

OH MY!

- **Words:** Use commas to separate three or more words, phrases, or clauses.
- **Phrases:** This morning I woke up, got dressed, brushed my teeth, and ate breakfast.
- **Clauses:** In fact, the bus was full of people who got dressed, who brushed their teeth, and who ate breakfast this morning.

Practice

- For each example, add necessary commas and identify if the series is Words (W), Phrases (P), or Clauses (C).
- The English professor adjusted her glasses shuffled her notes and began her lecture.
- A glass of milk a cup of tea or a mug of coffee will be fine.
- I'll have pickles ketchup mustard and onions on this hot dog.
- Dakota HS is full of students who care about school who don't care about school and who are unsure about school.
- **Your turn: Write three sentences using commas in a series using words, phrases, and clauses.**

Commas & Parenthetical Elements

- Use a comma **to set off parenthetical elements**, as in "The Founders Bridge, *which spans the Connecticut River*, is falling down."
- By "parenthetical element," I mean a part of a sentence that can be removed **without** changing the essential meaning of that sentence. The parenthetical element is sometimes called "added information" or "interrupters"
- This is the most difficult rule in punctuation because it is sometimes unclear what is "added" or "parenthetical" and what is essential to the meaning of a sentence.

Examples

- I, on the other hand, prefer dark chocolate.
- The best way to write a paper, even if you have writer's block, is to tune out all distractions and just do it.
- Winter, the season I usually dread, was quite mild this year.
- **In each of these examples, you can take out the middle of the sentence and it still makes sense!**

Why it's difficult!!

Essential vs. non-essential

- Use a pair of commas in the middle of a sentence to set off clauses, phrases, and words that are **not essential** to the meaning of the sentence. Use one comma before to indicate the beginning of the pause and one at the end to indicate the end of the pause.
- **Here are some clues to help you decide whether the sentence element is essential:**
- If you leave out the clause, phrase, or word, does the sentence still make sense?
- If you move the element to a different position in the sentence, does the sentence still make sense?

- If you answer "yes" to one or more of these questions, then the element in question is nonessential and should be set off with commas. Here are some example sentences with nonessential elements:
- **Clause:** That Tuesday, *which happens to be my birthday*, is the only day when I am available to meet.
Phrase: This restaurant has an exciting atmosphere. The food, *on the other hand*, is rather bland.
Word: I appreciate your hard work. In this case, *however*, you seem to have over-exerted yourself.

Essential vs. Non-Essential

- Examples of other **essential** elements (no commas):
 - Students *who cheat* only harm themselves.
The baby *wearing a yellow jumpsuit* is my niece.
The candidate *who had the least money* lost the election.
The book *that I borrowed from you* is fantastic! (THAT CLAUSES are always essential – NO COMMAS)
- Examples of **nonessential** elements (set off by commas):
 - Fred, *who often cheats*, is just harming himself.
My niece, *wearing a yellow jumpsuit*, is playing in the living room.
The Republican party candidate, *who had the least money*, lost the election.
Apples, *which are my favorite fruit*, are the main ingredient in this recipe.

That clauses – ALWAYS ESSENTIAL!

- Do not use commas to set off essential elements of the sentence, such as clauses beginning with *that*. *That* clauses after nouns are always essential.
- The book *that I borrowed from you* is excellent.
The apples *that fell out of the basket* are bruised.