



When to Use Commas



To separate items in a list.

Math, science, literature and art all school subjects.

After a prepositional phrase at the beginning of a sentence

In the evening, Al likes to take long walks.

After a subordinate clause at the start of a sentence.

When you finally pass your last exam, you can start your final university applications.

After adverbials

In the meantime, I suggest you take a small break.
Occasionally, I have tea for my morning drink instead of coffee.

Non defining relative clauses

The policeman, who is also our next door neighbour, caught the suspect red handed.

With a compound sentence

The bus left without me, but I managed to catch the next one right away.

After an appositive

The daughter of an well-known singer, Naomi managed to sign her own record contract.

After an -ing or -ed modifying clause

Wrapped up in a wool blanket, James managed to ward off the cold and frigid night.

Ignoring the red traffic signal, the car cruised the intersection without being detected by the police.

Oxford comma (to avoid ambiguity usually found in legal documents and essays and research)

I love my parents, Ralph, and Billy Elish.



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