



Commas in Sentences

Grammar Mania Monday

Compound Sentences

- Use a comma before a **conjunction** that joins **independent clauses** in a compound sentence.
 - I wanted to go to the game, but I had to clean my room first.
- Sometimes a sentence has a compound verb but is not a compound sentence. Do not use a comma in this kind of sentence.
 - **I cleaned my room and went to the game.**

Items in a Series

- Use commas after every item in a series except the last one.
 - A series consists of three or more items.
 - The story of Daedalus and his son Icarus teaches us about **cleverness, stubbornness, and foolishness.**
 - Icarus and Daedalus **put on their wings, ran along the beach, and flew toward the open sea.**
- Use commas between two or more adjectives of equal rank that modify the same noun.
 - Both father and son made a **quick, daring** escape.

When adding commas between two adjectives modifying the same noun, try the following test:

Daedalus used large stiff feathers.

Place the word *and* between the adjectives.

Daedalus used large and stiff feathers.

If the sentence still makes sense, replace *and* with a comma.

Daedalus used large, stiff feathers.

Do not use a comma between adjectives that together express a single idea.

Each pair of wings had many light feathers.

If you place the word *and* between the adjectives, the sentence no longer makes sense.

Each pair of wings had many and light feathers.

Therefore, you would not need a comma.

Introductory Words and Phrases

- Use a comma after an introductory word or phrase to separate it from the rest of the sentence.
 - **Recklessly**, Icarus flew too close to the sun.
 - **According to Greek myth**, Icarus fell when his wings melted.

Interrupters

- Use commas to set off words or phrases that interrupt, or break, the flow of thought in a sentence.
 - Daedalus, **however**, did fly to freedom.
 - The myth has been told, **I am certain**, by many authors.

Nouns of Direct Address

- Use commas to set off nouns of direct address.
 - A noun of direct address names the person or group being spoken to.
 - **Devon**, explain why Daedalus warned Icarus about the sun.
 - Don't forget, **class**, that Icarus didn't listen to his father.

Appositives

- An **appositive** is a word or phrase that identifies or renames a noun or pronoun that comes right before it.
 - Use commas when the appositive adds extra information.
 - Do **not** use commas when the appositive is needed to make the meaning clear.
 - Olivia E. Coolidge, **an English author**, wrote about Greek myths.
 - The English author **Olivia E. Coolidge** wrote about Greek myths.

Dates and Locations

- Use a comma between the day and year.
 - My birthday is June 7, 1995.
- Use a comma between the city and state.
 - I was born in Watertown, South Dakota.
- If the sentence continues, there should also be a comma after the year and state.
 - We left for Seattle, Washington, on August 24, 2016, in the afternoon.



PRACTICE!

Go past the white church
turn left walk to the end of
the street and you will see my
house.

Tom started writing his essay
two hours ago and he
completed it by noon.

If I could repeat the tenth grade I would do things differently.

Science topics we'll be studying this year include cells earth systems and the hydrologic cycle.

Mrs. Aman my English
teacher says we have to learn
how to use commas.

As a student I always had
dreams of being a famous
rock star.

No Jackie I don't want to go
with Mark.

My mom who is a nurse cares
for the sick injured and
disabled.

We are having peas and
carrots roast beef and cake
for dinner.



Individual Practice

1. That Tuesday which also happens to be my birthday is the only day we can take the test.
2. Jack come to my house after school.
3. Emilio my next-door neighbor has two daughters a son and a puppy.
4. Unfortunately I didn't finish my English homework.
5. I can go to the park with you but I have to do my homework first.
6. You are I am sure telling the truth.
7. Now Mr. Bond we will saw you in half.
8. On June 23 2017 we will take a trip to Fargo North Dakota.
9. In case you haven't heard it's my birthday tomorrow.
10. I wanted to go to the game however my parents wouldn't let me.