



Illinois Valley Community College
Writing Center

COMMAS

Use commas to separate items in a series.

The woman bought a pink dress, purple scarf, and crystal necklace.

Use a comma to combine what would otherwise be two complete sentences with a coordinating conjunction. Coordinating conjunctions= FANBOYS (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So).

I raced to school, but I was still late to class.

Independent

Independent

The weather was warm, so we swam all day.

Independent

Independent

Use a comma to follow introductory words, phrases, or clauses.

When the bell rang, the students filed into school.

Because he sang well, he joined a band.

Seeing the tears on his face, I realized he was hurt.

Yes, I would be glad to bring a dessert.

Place commas around an appositive. An appositive is a noun or phrase that renames a nearby noun.

My favorite book, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, makes me laugh every time I open it.

Here, the speaker's favorite book is the same thing as *Where the Sidewalk Ends*.

Use commas around a word or phrase that interrupts or contrasts with the main idea.

The water, however, tasted like eggs.

She invited the girls in her class, but not the boys.



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