

>> COMMAS <<

1. USE A COMMA TO SEPARATE INDEPENDENT CLAUSES. Coordinating conjunctions (*and, but, yet, so, or nor, for*)

He walked down the street, and then he turned the corner.

2. USE A COMMA AFTER AN INTRODUCTORY CLAUSE, PHRASE, OR PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE FOUR WORDS+.

When Evan was ready to iron, his cat tripped on the cord.

3. USE A COMMA BETWEEN ALL ITEMS IN A SERIES.

We bought apples, peaches, and bananas today.

4. USE COMMAS TO SET OFF NONRESTRICTIVE/NONESENTIAL CLAUSES.

John, who spent the last three days fishing, is back on the job again.

5. USE A COMMA TO SET OFF APPOSITIVES (RENAMES A NOUN).

Alexander Pope, the Restoration poet, is famous for his monologues.

6. USE A COMMA TO INDICATE DIRECT ADDRESS.

I think you're right, John.

7. USE COMMAS TO SET OFF DIRECT QUOTATIONS. (*when introduced by a speaker tag)

Derek said, "I dislike concerts because the music is too loud."

8. USE COMMAS WITH DATES, ADDRESSES, TITLES, AND NUMBERS.

Rules for dates: In full dates, the year is set off from the rest of the sentence with a pair of commas.

Rules for addresses: The elements of an address or place name are separated by commas. A zip code, however, is not preceded by a comma.

Rules for titles: If a title follows a name, separate the title from the rest of the sentence with a pair of commas.

Rules for numbers: In numbers more than four digits long, use commas to separate the numbers into groups of three, starting from the right. In numbers four digits long, a comma is optional.

⇒ **Directions: Add commas where necessary. Then draw a circle around any commas you add. Some sentences may have more than one correction to be made. If it is correct, write correct in the blank.**

_____ 1. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the United States has the highest teenage birth rate among fully-industrialized countries at 3.9 percent for 15-19 year olds.

_____ 2. This number is high compared to other industrialized nations such as Canada and France.

_____ 3. It's alarming too considering the health risks to the mother and the baby in a teen pregnancy.

_____ 4. The National Institute of Health reports that teenage mothers are at a greater risk of experiencing medical complications than mothers in older age groups.

_____ 5. This is easy to forget with the stories portrayed on MTV's so-called reality shows.

_____ 6. It's hard to see past the glamorized magazine covers a good paycheck and fame.

_____ 7. Even though MTV hints at the harsh realities of raising a child in high school most teens' perceptions are clouded by the constant publicity and interest that these girls receive.

_____ 8. While some girls decide not to have babies as teenagers some might see having a baby as less of a mistake and more of an opportunity to be on TV.

_____ 9. With questions stirring as to reasons why teen pregnancy numbers are still high teens need to think about the media and its influence on such actions.

_____ 10. As modern media consumers we can't just accept any information we see on TV and read in magazines as valid and credible information.