The sea was calm, the sun was shining, the beach was empty <u>and</u> Anne felt at peace with the world.

Beginning a sentence with a conjunction

If you begin a sentence with a conjunction, use a comma to separate the dependent clause from the main. In the previous sentence 'if' is a conjunction and there is a comma after 'conjunction'.

Here are two more examples with the conjunctions underlined. Notice where the comma is placed:

<u>Because</u> it was raining, we stayed inside.

<u>As</u> the sun set, the sky glowed red.

There must be *two* clauses following a conjunction at the beginning of the sentence.

Separating groups of words

Commas are also used to separate groups of words which are in the middle of the main sentence as in the following sentence:

Clive, who had just changed schools, found it difficult to adjust to his new surroundings.

'Clive' is the subject of the sentence and 'who had just changed schools' says a little more about him so therefore it is enclosed by commas. It is a dependent clause.