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<u>COMMA RULES</u>

1. **Use comma before a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so) between independent clauses**.

Chad finished reading the novel for class, and then he promptly began the homework for FYE.

2. **Use after introductory phrase or clause that answers when, why, how, where, or under what conditions the main action of the sentence took place. Be sure that the word that follows the comma is the subject of the introductory phrase—watch out for misplaced or dangling modifiers.**

Running to class after sleeping late, Lindsay discovered that it was Saturday.

3. **Use commas between coordinate adjectives not separated by "and."**

The couch was covered in a florid, ugly, garish print.

4. **Use commas between items in a series.**

Becca returned from the holidays with a new sweater, boots, and sweatshirts.

5. **Use commas to set off non-restrictive elements.**

Rebecca, a student in my class, usually sits in the second row.

The Iliad, which Evelyn absolutely adores, is a required text for the class.

6. **Use commas to set off adjectival, modifying phrases**. **Be sure that these phrases are directly adjacent to the word they modify, and be sure they are framed by commas on both ends.**

The classroom, poorly lit and badly designed, held over 150 students.

The class agreed that the novel, though well written and topical, was thoroughly dull.

7. **Use commas to set off transitionals and parentheticals.**

Ben, however, knew the answer to the question.

Moreover, Lauren could not decide which of the two she liked better.

8. **Place commas inside quotation marks.**

Clytemnestra demands her "man-killing axe," a device with marked gender connotations.

9. **Use commas to set off direct address, interjections, interrogative tags.**

Class, we will have a quiz next week on commas.

Yes, we will have a quiz.

We will have a quiz, right?