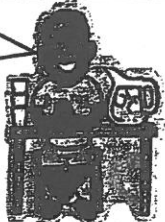


## Sophisticated Sentences: Commas Join Things Together

### COMMAS JOIN ITEMS IN LISTS

 <p>I used water, lemons, and sugar to make lemonade.</p>	Items in a list must be joined with commas. Use the word "and" before the last word.	Two items are not a list. They are joined by the word "and" without a comma.
	I need a piece of paper, a pen, and a pencil.	I need paper and pens.
	Candy, cake, and ice cream are sweet.	Candy and cake are sweet.

### TWO SENTENCES CAN BE JOINED BY A COMMA AND ONE OF THE F.A.N.B.O.Y.S. THE F.A.N.B.O.Y.S. ARE "FOR," "AND," "NOR," "BUT," "OR," "YET," AND "SO."

Two separate sentences	Joined into one sentence
I don't like the music. I am going to see the show.	I don't like the music, but I'm going to see the show.
Cats are beautiful. Dogs are friendly.	Cats are beautiful, and dogs are friendly.

### COMMAS CAN JOIN A DESCRIPTION TO A PERSON, PLACE, OR THING

Information as part of the sentence	Information joined with a comma before and after
Jennifer Lawrence is an Academy award nominee. She is set to star in The Hunger Games trilogy.	Jennifer Lawrence, an Academy Award nominee, is set to star in The Hunger Games trilogy.
Sagittaria is a genus of plant. Sagittaria is also known as Katniss.	Sagittaria, a genus of plant, is also known as Katniss.

### COMMAS JOIN "WHICH" CLAUSES TO SENTENCES

The word "which" introduces information that is always true of the thing being described. Use a comma before "which."	The word "that" tells you that you are only talking about a particular part or kind of the thing being described. Do not use a comma with "that."
America uses a lot of gas, which is a petroleum product.	America uses a lot of gas that is imported.
Apple makes the iPad, which remains the best selling tablet.	He has an iPad that has a yellow cover.

### COMMAS JOIN QUOTATIONS TO SENTENCES

"I don't know," I said, "but I'll find out."
"She's not very nice," I replied.

### COMMAS CAN JOIN A FRAGMENT TO THE BEGINNING OF A SENTENCE

If you are putting a sentence fragment first, use a comma.	If the sentence fragment comes after the part that can stand on its own, do not use a comma.
After the rain stopped, I planted flowers.	I planted flowers after the rain stopped.
Because I want to be in shape, I am exercising every day.	I am exercising every day because I want to be in shape.

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