Comma Rules & Application Practice Sentences

The Constitution establishes the legislative executive and judicial branches of government.

The candidate promised to lower taxes protect the environment reduce crime and end unemployment.

The prosecutor argued that the defendant, who was at the scene of the crime who had a strong revenge motive and who had access to the murder weapon was guilty of homicide.

I can't wait until I can go to Starbucks and get a hot sweet foamy latte.

I did not want to let the dog in the house. She had been rolling in the grass after it rained; she was wet stinky and covered in mud.
COMMA RULES 1 - Practice

Place commas where needed.

1. We toured the gardens in the following sequence: first the herb garden; second the lily pond; third the camellia garden; fourth the rose garden.
2. Prickly pear cacti have flattened pad-like stems.
3. The aloe plant bears flowers that are red yellow and orange.
4. We enjoyed the different names of the cacti: the elephant's foot the living rock cacti the pincushion cacti and the houseleek.
5. We decided that upon our return home we would begin an herb garden that we would plant annuals and that we would tend these gardens every day.
6. Camellias have shiny dark leaves with heavy waxy petals.
7. The three main classes of cultivated roses are the following: first the old rose; second the perpetual rose; third the ever blooming hybrid.
8. The fragrant lovely rose is one of the most beautiful of all flowers.
9. The roses we saw were red yellow various shades of pink and white.
10. Sweetbriar roses are tall graceful roses with fragrant leaves.

Use commas after introductory a) clauses, b) phrases, or c) words that come before the main clause.
a. Common starter words for introductory clauses that should be followed by a comma include after, although, as, because, if, since, when, while

Examples:
- By the way, may I call you tomorrow?
- Oh, I didn't think you were here.
- Nevertheless, the play will open as scheduled.
- Because her alarm clock was broken, she was late for class.
- If you are ill, you ought to see a doctor.
- While I was eating, the cat scratched at the door.
- When the snow stops falling, we'll shovel the driveway.

Use a comma after a series of prepositional phrases. Use a comma after a single introductory prepositional phrase only if it is followed by a natural pause when read.

Examples:
- In the old green barn behind the house, our cat Trixie sat quietly.
- To apply for a scholarship, complete the attached forms.
- When Peter entered the room, the guests were surprised.

Use commas to set off nonessential appositives. You can check this by reading the sentence without the part that is offset by the commas to make sure it still makes sense.

Example:
- Jupiter, the largest planet, was named after the Roman god.
- That Tuesday, which happens to be my birthday, is the only day when I am available to meet.
- This restaurant has an exciting atmosphere. The food, on the other hand, is rather bland.

COMMA RULES 2 - Practice

Place commas correctly in the sentences below.

1. These ties Dad are too old-fashioned.
2. Toronto the capital of Ontario is Canada's second-largest city.
3. In fact Millions of Cats is one of my favorite books.
4. Consequently many students apply.
5. At the beginning of the season we knew we could win.
6. Wearing black robes and white wigs the British judges entered the courtroom.
7. Well I've done as much as I can do for one day.
8. To play the piano well a person needs nimble fingers.
9. After weeks of deliberation in the courtroom the jury found him guilty.
10. Atop a pear tree at the end of the road a crow perched.
11. If necessary Max will cancel tonight's meeting.
12. The French Quarter also known as Vieux Carre is a famous area in New Orleans.
13. It is important to take lessons before you begin Roger.
14. Obviously you will need to have a physical examination.

English 10 Grammar: COMMA RULES #5 - Prepositional Phrases

Use a comma after a series of prepositional phrases. Use a comma after a single introductory prepositional phrase only if it is followed by a natural pause when read.

Examples:
- In the old green barn behind the house, our cat Trixie sat quietly.
- To apply for a scholarship, complete the attached forms.
- When Peter entered the room, the guests were surprised.

English 10 Grammar: COMMA RULES #7 - Parenthetical Phrases

Use commas to set off words of direct address and parenthetical expressions.

Examples:
- Tonya, be sure to include a self-addressed envelope.
- You are, I believe, one of the five applicants for the job.
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**English 10 Grammar: COMMA RULES #8 -- Quotations**

Use commas to set off explanatory words of a direct quotation. When the explanatory words follow the quotation, a comma belongs at the end of the quotation inside the quotation marks.

**Examples:**

Jean exclaimed, “What a beautiful sunset!”

“The washing machine is out of order,” reported Mike.

In a divided quotation, use a comma within the quotation marks after the first part of the quotation and after the explanatory words.

**Example:**

“Let’s play tennis,” suggested Mark, “and then we can go hiking.”

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**COMMA RULES 3 - Practice**

Use commas correctly in the following sentences:

1. The tornado ripped through the city yet no one was injured.
2. The abacus which has beads arranged in columns is a type of calculator.
3. I gave Nicole the money and she gave me the ticket.
4. “Today” said Police Chief White “is a great day for the police academy.”
5. Lou who is not a good sailor was apprehensive sailing around Cape Hatteras.
6. Roberta who is a well-organized person proved an able administrator.
7. Pressed for time Allan took the shortest route to the campsite.
8. Steve wondered “Where will I be and what will I be doing ten years from now?”
9. Tom has always wanted to learn how to sail that boat but he will need to learn to swim first.
10. My dog terrified by the thunder jumped into bed with me.

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**COMMAS 4 - Practice**

Use commas correctly in the following sentences:

1. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4 1826 in their home states.
2. In Dover Delaware a major industry is the manufacture of latex products.
3. Dear Joe Enclosed is the catalogue I was telling you about. Your friend John.
4. On the spaghetti sauce and cheese were heaped.
5. Betty Hoskins Ph.D. conducts nutrition research for Snacks Unlimited Inc.
6. Before we lived at 12435 South Princeton Street.
7. One famous address is 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington D.C.
8. The information operator for zip code 03223 received 52000 calls last month.
9. Maria asked for she was the only one who spoke Greek.
10. Donald Burke M.D. of Super Alloy Inc. is an industrial medicine specialist.

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**Commas with Interrupters**

1. Dr. Phillips should I make an appointment with you next week?
2. The race therefore was equally challenging to all the contestants.
3. Are you going to join us for tea Mrs. Collins?
4. The rowers of course were exhausted after the three-hour race.
5. Small dogs for example can be great pets for the elderly.
6. The students generally speaking enjoy a great deal of variety in the lesson plans.
7. Have you read this article yet Janet?
8. Mrs. Wyatt is this painting yours?
9. Those antiques by the way are mostly forgeries.
10. The mayor on the other hand disagreed with the committee’s decision.