

## Comma Rules for First Quiz

1. Use commas to separate independent clauses when they are joined by any of these seven coordinating conjunctions: *and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet*. (forming a compound sentence)  
Remember: To be a compound sentence, it should be able to be split apart into 2 sentences.

Example: Sam studied for the comma quiz, so that he would do well. (comma needed)

Sam studied for the comma quiz and did well. (no comma needed)

2. Use commas after introductory adverb clause. If the clause is at the end of the sentence, do not use a comma. (forming a complex sentence)

Example: When Natalie went home, a disaster awaited her. (comma needed)

A disaster awaited her when Natalie went home. (no comma needed)

3. Use commas to separate three or more words, phrases, or clauses written in a series.

Example: The dog ate the loaf of bread on the counter, a vacuum cleaner hose and a stray sock before being rushed to the clinic.

4. Use commas in a direct address.

Example: Dad, can I go to Nate's house?

Can I go to Nate's house, Dad?

5. Use commas after an interjection at the beginning of a sentence.

Example: Gadzooks, this quiz is easy if you study.

6. Use commas after the number in a date.

Example: November 20, 2013

7. Use commas on both sides of an appositive.

Example:

Marley, a rambunctious dog, is the main character in both a book and a movie.