

Using Commas

Commas should be used:

To separate items or adjectives in a list.

For example:

His favourites puddings were apple pie, rhubarb crumble and ice cream.

Monika wore a red, blue, purple and white jumper.



Commas should be used:

Before these conjunctions: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so* to separate two independent clauses.

For example:

She was a fantastic cook, but she would never be as good as her mother.

He had a toothache, so he rang the dentist.



Commas should be used:

To separate a fronted adverbial from the rest of the sentence

For example:

Given the terrible weather conditions, the crew of the yacht were lucky to complete the race.

As the last ray of sun disappeared, Yasmine crept silently out of the house.

Commas should be used:

To indicate parenthesis/embedded clauses

Parenthesis in a sentence adds information and can be removed without changing the meaning.

For example:

Milan, the cleverest boy in the class, was often late for school.

CBBC, which is based in Manchester, is a popular children's TV channel.

Commas should be used:

To separate main and subordinate clauses

For example:

While you're waiting, you can read a magazine.

Although I love football, swimming is my favourite sport.

