Lit and Comp

Commas

## The Three I’s

In addition to the most common uses for the comma (separating items in a series, separating adjectives that modify the same noun, and conventional issues ( dates, addresses, salutations and closings in letters, etc.), there are also three common uses for the comma that are often used incorrectly or not at all.

1. ***I*ntroductory Elements** – use a comma after introductory elements.
   1. After such as ***well, yes, no, why, etc***. when they begin a sentence

(*Well*, I never did figure out who stole the cookies from the cookie jar.)

* 1. After an **introductory participial phrase**

(*Cackling in front of the cauldron*, Mrs. Timler prepared the spaghettios.)

* 1. After an **introductory prepositional phrase**

(*Through the window,* we watched Thomas steal the red fiat.)

* 1. After an **introductory dependent clause**

(*When the cow fell through the roof*, Gary laughed heartily.)

# B. *I*nterrupters – use a comma to set off expressions that interrupt a sentence.

* 1. Appositives

(Our new teacher, **Mrs. Doorknocker**, tripped over the TV cord.)

* 1. Words in direct address

(Do you know, **Little Timmy**, why it is important to exercise daily?)

* 1. Parenthetical expressions

(My insurance will, **of course**, cover the damage.)

(That clever Mr. Cleary was, **naturally**, the first to solve the puzzle.)

(The incredible Hulk could beat you up, **of course**.)

# C. *I*ndependent clauses – use a comma before a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, for, nor, yet) when they join independent clauses.

1. (**I fell through the floor**, and **my girlfriend took me to the hospital**.)
2. (**Jess told Shelly not to eat the shrimp**, yet **Shelly ate the whole bag of shrimp**.)

**Correct the following sentences by adding commas wherever needed. Be sure to read the sentences carefully and remember the three I’s. Please check your work to make sure you have completed these exercises to the best of your ability.**

1. Jennifer will of course bring the salt pepper and chili powder.
2. Indeed if I had known earlier my friend I would have been here sooner.
3. Do you know Gary where your brother is?
4. You seem upset my friend.
5. An interview with Mr. Cleary the president of Plymouth will appear Sunday in the Review our local paper.
6. George please see me after class.
7. The police searched everywhere but they found no fingerprints.
8. The plot of the book a murder mystery is far too complicated for an infant.
9. When I shoveled the driveway I slipped on a patch of ice fell down and landed on a shovel.
10. This painting is by T. Armstrong a world-renowned artist; some of his most famous paintings include Grammar at Midnight Mullets in the Window and Trampled by Zombies.
11. Oh if it’s all right with you I’ll ask Gloria Sarah and Leo to help us.
12. Speaking at the forum last night the council candidate described her management experience.
13. Ripping his pants like a champ Spongebob decided that he was the funniest dude on the beach.
14. Young children do not use capital letters consistently and their punctuation is frequently unconventional.
15. Mr. Cleary is by the way considered to be one of the greatest poets in history.
16. David left to get a drink in the hallway but he never came back.
17. When they finished playing the musicians moved the drums offstage to make room for the dancers the clowns and the lions.
18. The sophomores decorated the gym and the juniors provided the refreshments.
19. We got encouragement from everyone but our parents helped us most of all.
20. Do you know homie how to get to the library?
21. These bonds will I think mature on January 12 2025.
22. Making a pizza for supper I cut the green peppers and I opened the can of sauce.
23. Over the horizon we could see the planet Mars.
24. Yes you will be able to buy frozen custard.
25. Why Fred do you insist on flipping through channels every two minutes while we could be watching *Friends* my favorite show?

Extra Credit

1. Pizza cereal and spaghetti make excellent breakfasts if you like to eat heavily for breakfast and you like to reheat leftovers.
2. Did you know Daniel that you can buy deep fried Mars candy bars dippin’ dots and frozen bananas at the store in Plymouth Wisconsin?