

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Commas

## Focus

**Commas** organize the thoughts and items in a sentence. They show the reader where to pause so that a sentence's meaning can be clearly understood.

### Rule

- Use a comma to separate three or more items.
- Use a comma after long introductory phrases or clauses.
- Use a comma and a connecting word to join two independent clauses.
- Use a comma when an interjection is not followed by an exclamation point.
- Use a comma before and after an appositive.

### Example

- I eat bananas, apples, and oranges. Triathletes swim, bike, and run.
- **After we finished cleaning the house,** my dad and I relaxed.
- Luiz wants to play chess, **but** Shonda wants to play checkers.
- **Gosh,** I did not know that. **Hi,** Mr. Harris.
- My friend, **Lacy,** is going to Kentucky.

## Practice

**On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite the following sentences, inserting commas where they are needed.**

1. Our new apartment has three bedrooms two baths and a screened porch.
2. Hey I just remembered that this building Metro Towers has both an elevator and an escalator.
3. In case someone got lost the teacher gave each student a whistle but she stressed that they were to be used only in an emergency.
4. I folded the letter stuck it in an envelope and headed to my local post office.
5. Pedro's trainer told him to lift weights jump rope and run in place for ten minutes.

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