

# Comma Use Practice

**1. Introductory words (*placed before the subject of the main clause*)**

Yes she was invited to the party tonight. Well no I don't think she will come.  
However we will keep a place at the table for her.

**2. Introductory phrases and clauses (*placed before the subject of the main clause*)**

Keeping the cost in mind the girls pooled their money to buy one game.  
In the cellar behind the boxes Ralph located his old varsity jacket.  
After the last bell rang at school the students rushed to the parking lot.

**3. Transposed words and phrases**

Undoubtedly the students are ready for spring break.  
Hurriedly the dog dug up his buried bone and began chewing on it.

**4. Appositives**

Mrs. Godfrey our drama teacher has won numerous awards for her acting.  
The movie began with Leonardo DiCaprio the leading actor battling a blizzard.

**5. Words of direct address**

Ralph please stop your dog from burying bones in my yard.

**6. Parenthetical expressions**

Spring break no doubt will be stormy and cold.  
We hope however that we will have warm weather.

**7. Nonessential modifiers**

Ralph's sister whose allergies are terrible will be visiting him in June.  
Shirley's car which she bought from her neighbor needs new tires.  
(Compare this to: The car that Shirley bought from her neighbor needs new tires.)

## 9. Compound sentences

The girls must leave for school by 7:50 a.m. or they will be tardy to their first class.

Ralph decided to mow his lawn but he will not plant new flowers until April.

The airplane touched down on the runway and it made a tight turn toward the terminal.

**NOTE:** A **semi-colon** can be used in place of the comma and conjunction between two complete sentences if they are closely related:

Shirley made a good breakfast; she didn't have time to eat it.

Shirley made a good breakfast; however, she didn't have time to eat it.

## 10. Series

The boys played a game watched TV and ate a snack after school.

Shirley's small bedroom is crowded with a double bed large desk and wide dresser.

I ate cake ice-cream and cookies for dinner.

## 11. Coordinate Adjectives

The violent gory movie was too much for Shirley.

Ralph's warm comfortable sweatshirt was in the laundry basket.

Shirley's elderly experienced grandfather gave her some good advice.

## 12. Clarity

After cleaning Shirley went shopping.

**NOTE:** A frequent comma use error on the English ACT is a comma splice—two complete sentences with only a comma between them:

Ralph changed the oil in his car, the filter needed changing also.

It rained frequently during the week, the weekend was bright and sunny.

The baseball game was scheduled for Saturday, the weather cleared by gametime.