

# Commas A

**23f.** Use commas to separate items in a series.

**23g.** Use a comma to separate two or more adjectives that come before a noun.

**WORDS IN A SERIES** Dad's garden produced **carrots, beans, and cucumbers.**

**PHRASES IN A SERIES** Irene walked **around the corner, across the street, and to the store.**

**CLAUSES IN A SERIES** I want to know **who will be there, how long the event will last, and how much the food will cost.**

**ADJECTIVES** Ten **hungry, chirping** birds landed near our blanket.

**EXERCISE A** Insert commas as needed in the following sentences.

**Example 1.** I need tortillas, grated cheese, and ground beef.

1. Cars trucks and buses were stranded by the storm.
2. Mrs. Ortega won more votes than Mr. Harris Miss Steinberg or Dr. Gladstone.
3. Scallops oysters herring and shrimp are displayed in the fish-market window.
4. One tall weary man wearing a hat dropped a silver coin into the kettle hanging by the door.
5. The chairperson's responsibilities included calling the meeting to order asking for the minutes and announcing new officers.
6. Howie's dogs are friendly obedient and loyal to him and his family.
7. The zoo director had to feed the animals guide visitors and keep the grounds safe and clean.
8. A sleek powerful submarine slipped into the sea.
9. Many white purple and yellow crocuses grew on the hill.
10. Todd's uncle asked who Rory was when she had arrived and why she was asleep on the porch.

**EXERCISE B** Insert commas as needed in the following paragraph.

**Example** I plan to spend a long, happy afternoon at the mall.

Have you heard about the new shopping mall? It is a big exciting place! It has department stores with clothing furniture and sporting goods. It even has specialty shops, such as those that sell only music boxes rare comic books organic health food shoes, or baseball caps. It has a noisy crowded food court that is filled with the smell of warm French bread. This weekend my father sister and I are going to find running shoes a music box with a ballerina, and crunchy trail mix. Why don't you come with us?

## End Marks and Abbreviations, p. 279

### EXERCISE A

1. Please set the clock on the VCR for me.
2. The listing says “6:30 on ch. 5,” but I’ll be at the gym then.
3. We will record the film and watch it later.
4. It is about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
5. Send your request to the following address: 1010 Butler St., Orlando, FL 32887.
6. What fascinating classes hers must be!
7. Sara read one of her poems at Mr. Bannerjee’s retirement party.
8. Have you read *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?
9. Oh no—watch out!
10. Pick up those clothes, Rita.

### EXERCISE B

What a crazy day this has been! The Cedar Ave. bus left early. Wasn’t I lucky that Dr. and Mr. Moreno came by and drove me to school? We got to school by 8:00, but it was closed because of a heating problem. The principal, Martin Crowe, Sr., stood out front and sent everyone home. I hope this means that I can give my UNICEF presentation next Friday.

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### EXERCISE A

*Optional commas are underscored.*

1. Cars, trucks, and buses were stranded by the storm.
2. Mrs. Ortega won more votes than Mr. Harris, Miss Steinberg, or Dr. Gladstone.
3. Scallops, oysters, herring, and shrimp are displayed in the fish-market window.
4. One tall, weary man wearing a hat dropped a silver coin into the kettle hanging by the door.
5. The chairperson’s responsibilities included calling the meeting to order, asking for the minutes, and announcing new officers.

6. Howie’s dogs are friendly, obedient, and loyal to him and his family.
7. The zoo director had to feed the animals, guide visitors, and keep the grounds safe and clean.
8. A sleek, powerful submarine slipped into the sea.
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### EXERCISE B

*Optional commas are underscored.*

Have you heard about the new shopping mall? It is a big, exciting place! It has department stores with clothing, furniture, and sporting goods. It even has specialty shops, such as those that sell only music boxes, rare comic books, organic health food, shoes, or baseball caps. It has a noisy, crowded food court that is filled with the smell of warm French bread. This weekend my father, sister, and I are going to find running shoes, a music box with a ballerina, and crunchy trail mix. Why don’t you come with us?

## Commas B, p. 281

### EXERCISE A

1. Our family planned a driving trip, so we needed maps.
2. Mom looked carefully but couldn’t find Elgin.
3. She put on glasses, for the the print was tiny.
4. The scenery was great, yet my sister was restless.
5. Is that normal, or is something wrong with the car’s engine?