

Commas C

23i. Use commas to set off an expression that interrupts a sentence.

Use commas to set off nonessential participial phrases, nonessential subordinate clauses, nonessential appositives, and nonessential appositive phrases.

- NONESSENTIAL PARTICIPIAL PHRASE** The spring picnic, **planned for months**, is on Thursday.
- NONESSENTIAL SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** My favorite aunt, **who is a teacher**, will drive the bus.
- NONESSENTIAL APPOSITIVE** Jason's younger brother, **Steve**, is eight years old.
- NONESSENTIAL APPOSITIVE PHRASE** Mr. Tarkov, **Dad's new boss**, will be an umpire.

EXERCISE A Each of the following sentences contains a nonessential phrase or clause. Insert commas as needed.

Example 1. Swimming, my favorite sport, is great exercise.

1. The Johnston City pool built ten years ago is a great place to swim.
2. City residents who are allowed to swim free use the pool all summer.
3. Our annual swim meet which was postponed will be next month.
4. Did you see Sheri my neighbor do a triple flip?
5. Mr. Epstein who is a retired firefighter teaches the beginning swimmers.

EXERCISE B Identify each underlined phrase or clause in the following sentences by writing above it *N* for *nonessential* or *E* for *essential*. Then, add commas to the nonessential phrases and clauses.

- Examples** 1. Parents who know how to swim can join the group. ^E
2. Lana, the one who's laughing, wants her mother to swim with her. ^N
6. The park equipped with a pool is the one we choose.
 7. The pool water sparkling in the sunshine invites me to jump in.
 8. Only students who have paid their fees can attend.
 9. How would you an experienced instructor educate swimmers about safety?
 10. Should we ask Mrs. Sims who walks every day to join us?
 11. The lifeguard wearing blue shorts is the strictest one.
 12. He stresses good behavior which is important for everyone's safety.
 13. A child who is frightened can usually be calmed.
 14. The third diving board which is the highest is reserved for experienced divers.
 15. Nina Parks the Sentryville Middle School swimming champion is swimming laps.

6. Carla noticed I forgot my pencil, so she lent me one of hers.
7. My cousin Cary writes music and plays in a band.
8. He invited us to listen, but we had no time.
9. Who woke us up, and why must we leave early?
10. Yoko is not a good traveler, nor am I.

EXERCISE B *Conjunctions may vary.*

11. I brought a new camera, but it broke.
12. It rained on Sunday, and we were disappointed.
13. The mountains were snowy, yet the weather didn't seem very cold.
14. I can borrow skis, or maybe I can rent some.
15. Mariana spotted a fire tower, and Dad saw a deer.

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EXERCISE A

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EXERCISE B

6. The park equipped with a pool is the one we choose.
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EXERCISE A

1. The time of our club meeting, by the way, has been changed.
2. Juan, the glove on the other hand of the mannequin does not match this one.
3. The landscape architect said, "These pansies, for example, would look wonderful there."
4. I didn't know, Lorena, that you could sing so beautifully!
5. I suppose that you, Rudolfo, will fill in for Perrin while she is on vacation.
6. On the other hand, that old barn looks quite picturesque.
7. Marina, may I borrow a pencil?
8. You must, of course, be home by curfew.
9. In fact, these are the cathedral's original stained-glass windows.
10. I'm not sure, Kelly, whether I want to go to the game.

EXERCISE B

Habitat for Humanity first caught my attention, I suppose, with its Web site. Victor, do you know how to search for information on the Internet? To tell the truth, searching on the Internet is quite simple. I will, however, e-mail you the URL you need. On this Web site, Victor, you will find lots of information.