

Commas D

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

Use commas to set off words that are used in direct address and to set off parenthetical expressions.

EXAMPLES Yes, **Tina**, I have extra notebook paper.
The best player, **in my opinion**, is Roberto.

EXERCISE A The following sentences contain words used in direct address or as parenthetical expressions. Insert commas before, after, or both before and after the words as needed.

Example 1. The omelet, to tell the truth, tasted scorched.

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 Insert commas as needed in the following paragraph.

Example Tell me, Edna, about your involvement in Habitat for Humanity.

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. Habitat for Humanity for example welcomes volunteers to help build houses. You see the main purpose of the organization is to supply affordable housing to people who need it. The future homeowners of course help to build their houses. I thought that you Victor would be especially interested in this organization. Your goal of becoming an architect I think would be compatible with working for Habitat for Humanity.

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

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

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.

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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.

Habitat for Humanity, for example, welcomes volunteers to help build houses. You see, the main purpose of the organization is to supply affordable housing to people who need it. The future homeowners, of course, help to build their houses. I thought that you, Victor, would be especially interested in this organization. Your goal of becoming an architect, I think, would be compatible with working for Habitat for Humanity.

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EXERCISE A

1. Under the picnic table beside the tent, Frisky slept peacefully.
2. Hiding behind the bush during a game of hide-and-seek, she scared me.
3. Well, look who's here!
4. Beyond that mountain with a snowy peak, there's a small cabin.
5. No, it burned down last summer.
6. Although the air was muggy, we turned off the air conditioner.
7. Oh, look at all those birds!
8. Since their leaves stay green all year, those trees are called evergreens.
9. After we ate, we explored the woods surrounding the campground.
10. Why, I wish all views were as beautiful as this!

EXERCISE B

In the final month of the twentieth century, *Time* magazine named Albert Einstein the Person of the Century. After I read the article by Frederic Golden, I agreed with the choice. Yes, Einstein won the distinction, but Franklin Roosevelt and Mohandas Gandhi were close runners-up. Although Einstein was a brilliant scientist, everyday people recognize his name and photo. As a matter of fact, you may even own a poster of Einstein. With his amazing intellect and his flyaway hair, Einstein is a beloved figure in American culture. Indeed, his ideas influenced more than just science. As Frederic Golden pointed out, Einstein's ideas have influenced the arts as well. In fact, artists

and poets have studied Einstein, and filmmakers have portrayed his life and ideas. Although he died in 1955, Einstein seems very much alive today.

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EXERCISE A

Optional commas are underscored.

1. This mild, creamy cheese will taste good on toast.
2. No one claimed the lost dog that I found, so I decided to keep her.
3. My school has a tennis court, a baseball diamond, and a jogging track.
4. Where are we eating lunch, Maxine?
5. "He can shake hands, he can roll over, and he can play dead," Scruffy's trainer told us.
6. Before I can watch television, I have to finish my homework.
7. A landscape painting, in my opinion, would look better in this room than a portrait.
8. I bought the latest issue, and I eagerly read every article.
9. Your clothing designs, Cheryl, are very promising.
10. Running across the lawn, a squirrel attracted Alex's attention.

EXERCISE B

Optional commas are underscored.

Smiling from ear to ear, Stephanie had spectacular, wonderful news. Yes, the Bears won their fifth game! In the second half of the game, they were awesome. When she told us, we yelled, jumped for joy, and hugged each other. I pasted team pictures in my bedroom, inside my locker, on the refrigerator, and on my notebook cover.