

Commas F

- 23f.** Use commas to separate items in a series.
- 23g.** Use a comma to separate two or more adjectives that come before a noun.
- 23h.** Use a comma before *and, but, for, nor, or, so, or yet* when it joins independent clauses in a compound sentence.
- 23i.** Use commas to set off an expression that interrupts a sentence.
- 23j.** Use a comma after certain introductory elements.

EXAMPLES I sketched **castles, dragons, and horses.**
Heavy, gray clouds filled the sky, **and** rain began to fall.
Splashing in the pool, the children were, **of course,** enjoying themselves.

EXERCISE A Insert commas as needed in the following sentences.

Example 1. Since my boots are muddy, may I borrow yours?

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

EXERCISE B Insert commas as needed in the following paragraph.

Example I missed the game on television, but Stephanie told me about it.

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.

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.

Commas E, p. 284

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.

Commas F, p. 285

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.