

Commas G

- 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 We hiked, we rafted, and we swam at the state park.
 The soggy, overcooked vegetables didn't appeal to me, nor did the meatloaf.
 After she got the camera, Katy, who is twelve, developed her own film.

EXERCISE A Insert commas in the following sentences as needed.

Example 1. Taught golf as a toddler, Tiger Woods was destined for greatness.

1. Tiger Woods's parents Earl and Kultida had Tiger playing golf at age two.
2. When Tiger was fifteen he won the U.S. Junior Amateur championship.
3. The dedicated gifted Tiger went on to win the 1992 and 1993 championships as well.
4. In each of the following three years he won the U.S. Amateur championship.
5. Tiger enrolled in Stanford University in 1994 but he did not give up golf.
6. Turning pro in August of 1996 Tiger left college.
7. He golfed in numerous events that year if I'm not mistaken.
8. He won two titles earned almost \$800,000 in prize money and was named outstanding rookie.
9. Tiger is well known for his golf swing which is graceful and accurate.
10. Tiger, in 1997, won the Masters Tournament a highly prestigious event.

EXERCISE B Insert commas as needed in the following paragraph.

Example Haunted houses, in Leon's opinion, really do not exist.

The grand old mansion fascinated neighborhood teenagers. Situated at the top of a hill it looked very stately. An iron fence which was covered with vines encircled the property. The teenagers discovered that they could part the vines peek through the fence and see a garden maze in the yard. One of the children Leon wanted to climb the fence. When he put his foot on the fence the other children shook their heads. Looking disappointed Leon said that he guessed the maze should remain a mystery.

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EXERCISE A

Optional commas are underscored.

1. Tiger Woods's parents, Earl and Kultida, had Tiger playing golf at age two.
2. When Tiger was fifteen, he won the U.S. Junior Amateur championship.
3. The dedicated, gifted Tiger went on to win the 1992 and 1993 championships as well.
4. In each of the following three years, he won the U.S. Amateur championship.
5. Tiger enrolled in Stanford University in 1994, but he did not give up golf.
6. Turning pro in August of 1996, Tiger left college.
7. He golfed in numerous events that year, if I'm not mistaken.
8. He won two titles, earned almost \$800,000 in prize money, and was named outstanding rookie.
9. Tiger is well known for his golf swing, which is graceful and accurate.
10. Tiger, in 1997, won the Masters Tournament, a highly prestigious event.

EXERCISE B

Optional commas are underscored.

The grand, old mansion fascinated neighborhood teenagers. Situated at the top of a hill, it looked very stately. An iron fence, which was covered with vines, encircled the property. The teenagers discovered that they could part the vines, peek through the fence, and see a garden maze in the yard. One of the children, Leon, wanted to climb the fence. When he put his foot on the fence, the other children shook their heads. Looking disappointed, Leon said that he guessed the maze should remain a mystery.

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EXERCISE A

1. The public library in New Falls, South Dakota, received an anonymous donation.
2. You'll find the bakery at 719 Pixel Avenue, Louisville.
3. Mary signed the letter, "Yours truly, Mary Roberts."
4. Spring Break will begin March 1, 2002.
5. Cory wrote, "Dear Mrs. Reszke, I am writing to volunteer for math tutoring."
6. I have a pen pal who lives in North Platte, Nebraska.
7. What were you doing on December 31, 1999, when the clock struck midnight?
8. My mom's address is P.O. Box 338, Bangor, Maine.
9. The movie theater at 462 Locust in Avery, Montana, is closing down.
10. Charlene's uncle will graduate from law school on May 17, 2003.

EXERCISE B

December 30, 2001

Dear Margo,

I'm catching up on my letters. No, I didn't forget your camp form. The camp's office moved from 1234 Howard Street, Springfield, Missouri. Now they're at 16 Rogers Road, Deerfield, Missouri. Camp starts on June 15, 2001, but our forms need to be mailed by March 15, 2001. Good news—they need counselors! I hope we both get jobs. Oh—use my new address when you write me back: P.O. Box 977, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Your pal,

Nichola

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EXERCISE

Optional commas are underscored.

1. I often rent a movie, pop some popcorn, and invite a friend over.
2. When I rent a movie, I rent a copy on videotape.