**Commas**

Commas are used to:

1. Separate independent clauses joined by these coordinating conjunctions: **for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.**

* Think “FANBOYS!”
* Add comma before conjunction
  + The football game ended, but the crowd was still being incredibly rowdy.
  + It was my friend’s birthday yesterday, so I treated her to dinner.

2. Separate a list of three or more ideas.

* Add comma after each aspect of the series
* Technically, you are not required to add a comma in between the last two items. This is called the *oxford comma.* In this class, we are oxford comma supporters!
  + We couldn’t decide between Popeye’s, KFC, or Buffalo Wild Wings.

3. Separate extra information.

* Add one comma to indicate the start of the new information and one comma to indicate where it ends
  + My friend Nitasha, someone I’ve known since high school, is working in the city as we are completing this lesson.
  + Little Vincent’s Pizzeria, the place with the best extra cheese slice, stays open until one in the morning.

4. Separate “if, then” statements (cause and effect statements).

* Add a comma before the “then”
  + If I get a perfect score on my test, then I will get a new video game.

5. Separate a quotation from the rest of a sentence.

* If the quote is the first aspect of the sentence, add a comma after the statement and before the end quotation mark, then another before the quote starts again.
  + “If I don’t get to class on time,” the boy said, “my teacher will be angry.”
* If the quote is integrated in the sentence, add a comma after the introductory phrase
  + She said, “I can’t stand this heat anymore!”

6. Separate an introductory element from the rest of a sentence.

* Add a comma after the introduction
  + Hi, how are you?
  + Wait a second, shouldn’t we have turned left?

7. Separate the name of a city from a country or state.

* Add a comma after the town/city and before the country/state.
  + He was born in Cape Town, South Africa.
  + She works in Farmingdale, New York.

8. Separate the day of the week, the day of the month, and the year.

* Add a comma after the day of the week, and after the numerical date.
  + The last day of school is Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

**Apostrophes**

Apostrophes are used to:

1. Show possession
   * When dealing with a singular noun, add the apostrophe plus the letter “s”.
     + Ms. Fierst’s favorite things to do at home are watch Netflix and make cookies.
     + The bird’s chirping was so loud, it woke everyone up before sunrise.
   * When dealing with a plural noun, add the apostrophe after the “s” at the end of the plural word.
     + All of these kids’ paintings were so cute.
     + The road trip to Florida was worth it after seeing all the beaches’ white sand
   * If the person showing possession has a name ending with “s,” you can either add an apostrophe + s OR just add an apostrophe. Either is acceptable, just be consistent!
     + James’ job allowed him to travel often.
     + James’s job allowed him to travel often.
   * \*\*\*Do not add an apostrophe when making family names plural\*\*\*

i.e. If you are signing a holiday card indicating it is from all your family members, or personalizing your mailbox with your family’s last name, do not add an apostrophe. That would be making the name possessive for no reason!

* + - Sincerely, the Smiths
    - The Johnsons live in the house with the blue shutters.

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2) To break up contractions

* + Insert apostrophe before the “t” (or wherever the missing letter is supposed to be).
    - I can’t wait to see how you are going to improve your grammar after this lesson.
    - Don’t touch the hot baking sheet!

Practice:

1. My mom said I shouldnt go out past 10, but I figured that was just a recommendation.
2. St. Francis Prep is located in Fresh Meadows New York.
3. The agenda for class today is reading writing and quiz review.
4. All students iPads seemed to have some scratch or crack on it already!
5. If you start taking practice SAT exams far in advance you will likely perform very well.
6. My best friend couldn’t come to the party for she broke curfew this past week.
7. I am creating this worksheet on Wednesday August 15 2018.
8. The cats piece of yarn was her favorite toy.
9. My brother a second year college student still sleeps with a night light.
10. He raised his hand and asked the teacher, will this be on the test?

Take it a step further:

1. Instead of writing out all 12 family members names, she signed the card from the Smiths.
2. Hey you she called across the hall who has your vote for class president?