

Lesson • P.8 Commas



Tip:



Commas are very important for understanding a sentence. They can help break up long sentences into smaller phrases. A long sentence that is missing commas can be very difficult to read.

Examples:

Without commas: *Shmuel dragged his shiny new bike out of the shed in the backyard unlocked the chain that was tangled around the wheels and began to pedal furiously to catch up to his friends.*

With commas: *Shmuel dragged his shiny new bike out of the shed in the backyard, unlocked the chain that was tangled around the wheels, and began to pedal furiously to catch up to his friends.*

Here are two important rules for commas:¹

Rule #1: Use a comma between **independent clauses** joined by a **conjunction**, such as and, or, and but.

Remember, an independent clause is a statement that could stand on its own as a separate sentence.

¹While there are many rules for commas, such as in addresses, numbers, title, interjection, direct address, etc., this chapter is focused on basic sentence writing skills, not grammar rules. Therefore, only two rules were chosen to be presented here. The teacher may decide to incorporate all rules of commas at this point from a grammar curriculum.