

## Comma Notes for rule 1 and 2

### Rule #1 – commas in a compound sentence

Use a comma before a conjunction that joins two independent clauses in a compound sentence.

*Example: Mary and John are planning a trip to Florida, but they aren't sure when the trip will be.*

### Rule #2 – commas with items in a series

Use a comma after every item in a series except the last.

*Example: Symbols of birds, lions, and snakes appear in hieroglyphics.*

### **Rule #3 - commas between coordinating adjectives**

Use a comma between adjectives of equal rank.

**Test:** if you can place the word "and" between the adjectives and it still makes sense then use the comma **OR**

If you can reverse the words without changing meaning, then use a comma)

*Example: The big, bold bear stole the campers' food at night.*

**Do NOT** use commas between adjectives that express a single idea. Example: *The blazing red fire truck flew down the street.*

### **Rule #4 - commas with introductory words & phrases**

Use a comma to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence.

**Example:** *Even after the war, Jews were treated poorly.*

**Example:** *Finally, the war was over.*

**Example:** *Ben, bring me the forks and knives.*

**Example:** *Before leaving, please take the assignment out of the folder.*

## **Rule #5- commas with interrupters and direct address**

Use a comma to set off a word or phrase that interrupts the flow of thought in a sentence. Use commas to set off the noun of a direct address.

**Examples:** *The stone provided, at long last, a key to hieroglyphics.*

*Your class, Alex, would be thrilled to hear about your discovery.*

## **Rule #6 - commas with appositives**

Use commas to set off appositives (word or phrase that identifies or renames a noun or pronoun that comes right before it).

**Examples:**

*Ben Franklin, a founding father, was one smart man.*

*The principal of Heritage Jr. High, Mr. Waak, is going to give a speech at the Open House.*

## Comma Notes for rule 7 and 8

Rule # 7- Use a comma to set off the words **yes** and **no**.

Example: *Yes, thank you.*

*No, I don't like frosting.*

Rule #8 - Use a comma to indicate **direct address**.

Example: *Is that you, Steve?*

*Steve, is that you?*