

# English punctuation rules



How and Why To Use Commas



# 1. Comma in simple sentence

- To separate 3 or more items in a series.

- *Example:*

*“I saw milk, vegetables, and tuna in the fridge.”*

# 1. Comma in simple sentence

- To set off words of direct address, words that name the person being spoken to.
- *Example:*  
“Sandra, show me your essay.”

# 1. Comma in simple sentence

- After introductory words and phrases.

- *Examples:*

*“Moreover, I believe we should keep an eye on that situation.”*

*“In case of an emergency, the fire crew will be called.”*

# 1. Comma in simple sentence

- Before and after an appositive.

- *Example:*

*“Our neighbors, the Smith, came for dinner last night.”*

# 1. Comma in simple sentence

- After a participle phrase at the beginning of the sentence.

● *Example:*

*“Walking home, I tried to decide what I was going to say.”*

# 1. Comma in simple sentence

- In dates between the day of the month and the year.

● *Example:*

*“The postmark read September 10, 1998,  
Chicago, Illinois.*

# 1. Comma in simple sentence

- In direct speech

- *Example:*

*He asked, “Where did you go?”*



## 2. Comma in compound sentences

- To separate independent clauses

- *Examples:*

*“The sky was covered with clouds, a cold wind was blowing.”*

*“She nodded, but he sensed a trace of lingering anxiety.”*

## 2. Comma in compound sentences

- After adverbial clauses when these come first in a sentence.

- *Example:*

*“If you are ever in London, you should visit the Houses of Parliament.”*

*“You should visit the Houses of Parliament if you are ever in London.”*

## 2. Comma in compound sentences

- Subordinate clause (придаточное предложение) = Subject (подлежащее) / Predicate (сказуемое)

● *Example:*

“Where he found that bag \_ is a mystery to me.”

## 2. Comma in compound sentences

- Never use a comma before **that**

- *Example:*

*“He said    that he would never start smoking again.”*

## 2. Comma in compound sentences

- “My sister, who is from LA, came to my place.”
- Простое описательное предложение про сестру: «Моя сестра, живущая в Лос-Анджелесе, приехала ко мне. Мы понимаем, о какой сестре идёт речь.

## 2. Comma in compound sentences

- “My sister \_ who is from LA \_ came to my place.”
- Какая именно из сестёр приехала?:  
«Моя сестра, та, что из Нью-Йорка,  
приехала ко мне.»

- Well, now you know all the rules ;)
- Thank you for attention!