





Comma Basics

A comma is a punctuation mark that indicates a pause is needed in a sentence by separating the structure elements into manageable segments. Like many others punctuation marks, they help clarify meaning and rhythm for the reader. Below is a quick guide, with examples, of a few rules when using commas.

When to use a comma

	 Incorrect	 Correct
Introducing a sentence	Additionally the zombie couldn't catch us.	Additionally, the zombie couldn't catch us.
Separating a nonrestrictive clause	Jeremy who was loved by all couldn't escape the zombie horde.	Jeremy, who was loved by all, couldn't escape the zombie horde.
Joining independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction	Zombies are known to move slow so you should be able to get away.	Zombies are known to run slow, so you should be able to get away.

When not to use a comma

	 Incorrect	 Correct
Between a verb and its subject	This zombie, is too fast to run away from.	This zombie is too fast to run away from.
Between compound subjects or objects	An army of zombies, and vampires make for a tough situation.	An army of zombies and vampires make for a tough situation.
Between compound predicates	We locked doors, and fortified defenses against the zombies.	We locked doors and fortified defenses against the zombies.
Between independent clauses	Barricades fell, the town dispersed.	Barricades fell; the town dispersed.