

THE COMMA

Exercises

Insert commas where necessary in the following sentences.

Exercise 1: The Separation Comma

1. I am going to hire a cleaning service to wash floors dust furniture scour the oven and launder clothes.
2. If you want to be a fan of a Canadian hockey team you have to decide between the Leafs the Senators the Canadiens the Jets the Oilers the Flames and the Canucks.
3. Three things that ruin a night out are losing your wallet losing your keys and losing your phone.

Exercise 2: The “FANBOYS” Comma

1. Our teacher is convinced we will fail so we are going to shock her by studying hard for the final exam.
2. Chris spent yesterday moping around the house sighing and grumbling because she is an avid Leafs fan.
3. They really hate exercising so jogging is out of the question.

Exercise 3: The Courtesy Comma

1. Janice please pass the salt and pepper.
2. On her way to the Juno Awards Ruby was mobbed by autograph seekers.
3. Shocked by his baby’s first word Khashayar resolved to be more careful with his language at home.
4. By the way your rear left tire is flat



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5. Approaching her 40th birthday Sophie Mishima celebrated by buying a red sports car and taking herself out to the movies.

Exercise 4: The “Coordinating” Comma

1. When describing someone as nice we can mean many things like welcoming kind generous thoughtful and easy-going.
2. The tired old dirty cat was in desperate need of a shower.
3. Guelph-Humber boasts new spacious buildings on its campus.

Exercise 5: The Contrary (or Contrast) Comma

1. Instead of finding the assignment too difficult they found it too easy and unfulfilling.
2. The day was rainy and cold but it was still a day off so she enjoyed it.
3. The whole purpose of going to school is to study and learn from teachers and fellow students not to perform better than everyone else.

Exercise 6: The Formal Title Comma

1. She went to high school in Toronto Ontario but then moved to Vancouver British Columbia where she completed her university studies.
2. We visited Jakarta Indonesia last summer
3. Tom Cannon director of the video game *Project L* says that there is not yet a confirmed release date for the game.
4. On November 4 1964 Jack Ruby shot the President of the United States John F. Kennedy.
5. They were born on February 24 1956 in Cleveland Ohio.



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6. In 2021 76.5% of Filipino Canadians were living in Ontario.

Exercise 7: The Quoted Language Comma

1. John Collyer the schoolmaster author of *General Principles of English Grammar* (1735) declared that we put many words in the adverb class “because we do not know what else to call them.”
2. The phrase “privatized patriarchal nuclear family” from bell hooks’ *All About Love* doesn’t contain any commas.
3. In the *AMA Journal of Ethics* Powell et al. (2016) conclude that the strongest arguments for transgender rights “must rely on the concept of inalienable human rights, including the right to live safely, freely, and without fear of discrimination.”
4. “The question is” said Naben “who feels safest and lets you be your truest self?”
5. “I would like to buy an egg please” she said timidly. “How do you sell them?”



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