

**Between more than two items in a series**

The most popular sports in the U.S. are **football, basketball, and tennis**.

**Eating out, swimming, and going to the movies** are popular forms of entertainment.

Paul **came home late, went to bed, and slept** for 10 hours.

**Between two or more adjectives, when the adjective positions are interchangeable**

She is a **strong, healthy** woman.

It is over by the **black, adjustable** armchair.

*NOTE: English adjective order generally places essential, physical, or unchanging adjectives closer to the nouns they modify.*

**Between two independent clauses joined with a coordinating conjunction**

Fast food causes various health problems, **but** many people eat it to save time.

John was in a car accident, **so** he will be absent from class for a while.

**After a dependent clause at the beginning of a sentence**

When my grandparents arrived in the U.S., they had no friends.

**Because** the dust storm covered my car, I couldn't recognize it in the parking lot.

**Even though** economics is difficult, I'm sticking with it.

**If** the air conditioning fails, we will probably have to cancel classes.

*NOTE: If the dependent clause comes second, no comma is needed.*

We will probably have to cancel classes if the air conditioning fails.

**After an introductory word or phrase**

My first day at SFS-Qatar was busy. **First**, I went to my English class.

**Yesterday**, I bought some supplies for school. **For example**, I bought a backpack.

**Around an interrupting word or phrase**

I am, **by the way**, very nervous about this.

She is, **nevertheless**, my best friend.

**Around nonessential words, clauses, or phrases**

My sister, **who lives across the street**, always watches my cats when I travel.

The tiramisu, **which I had at Joe's**, was delicious!

*NOTE: clauses that begin with "that" are considered essential*

The tiramisu that I had at Joe's was delicious!

**Let's Practice! Edit the sentences below for punctuation. Add commas as needed.**

1. Your uncle willed me all his properties houses and cars
2. We play sports such as basketball volleyball squash and tennis
3. Reading daydreaming and playing the piano were my favorite when I was a child
4. Jake was a warm gentle affectionate Swedish giant
5. Our teacher is tall strong smart athletic and engaging
6. You can come today but I will be away from my desk
7. Please don't drink and drive or text message while driving
8. Yesterday I hoped that I would find out how the story ended
9. After you finish what you are doing you must close all the windows
10. When it snows hard only grade schools will close this year
11. With that said we all need to start working on time
12. Near a small country river the truck was unloaded in secrecy
13. In all likelihood you will pass the class if you attend regularly
14. Walking alone at night which can be scary in this area gives me a sense of peace
15. I would like you to know however that you need to work much harder
16. That house which is across the street belongs to my nephew
17. The car which I had in Kansas City MO was stronger and faster than this one
18. Undoubtedly I could finish the experiment because my colleagues helped me
19. Coffee is stronger than tea so I don't drink as much of it
20. Despite Rue's best efforts she could not keep the weeds out of her garden