

Lesson 59

Using Commas

- Use a **comma** between words or groups of words that are in a series.
EXAMPLE: Columbia, Mackenzie, St. Lawrence, Nelson, and Fraser are names of well-known Canadian rivers.
- Use a comma before a conjunction in a compound sentence.
EXAMPLE: Once the rivers were used mainly for transportation, but today they are used for recreation and industry.
- Use a comma after a subordinate clause when it begins a sentence.
EXAMPLE: When I got to the theatre, the movie had already begun.

A. Add commas where needed in the sentences below.

1. Anita Travis and Leo went to the tennis tournament.
2. Before they found their seats the first match had already begun.
3. It was a close game and they weren't disappointed by the final score.
4. They had come to cheer for Antonio Fergas and he was the winner.
5. Although his opponent was very good Fergas never missed returning a serve.
6. While they watched the match Anita clapped cheered and kept score.
7. Travis and Leo watched a number of different matches but Anita followed Fergas.
8. He was signing autographs and Anita was first in line.
9. Antonio asked her name signed a tennis ball and shook her hand.
10. Because they enjoyed the match so much Travis Leo and Anita made plans to come back for the final match the next day.
11. They planned to see the men's women's and doubles' finals.
12. Fergas won the entire tournament and he became the youngest champion in the history of the tournament.

- Use a comma to set off a quotation from the rest of the sentence.
EXAMPLES: "We'd better leave early," said Travis.
Travis said, "We'd better leave early."
- Use two commas to set off a divided quotation. Do not capitalize the first word of the second part of the quotation.
EXAMPLE: "We'd better leave," Travis said, "or we'll be stuck in traffic."

B. Add commas to the quotations below.

1. "The first match starts at 9:00 A.M." said Travis.
2. Anita asked "Do you want to get seats in the same section as yesterday?"
3. "That's fine with me" said Leo.
4. Leo said "Fergas's first match is in Court B."
5. "I'll bring the binoculars" said Anita "and you can bring the cooler."

- Use a comma to set off the name of a person who is being addressed.
EXAMPLE: Philip, would you like to leave now?
- Use a comma to set off words like yes, no, well, oh, first, next, and finally at the beginning of a sentence.
EXAMPLE: Well, we better get going.
- Use a comma to set off an appositive.
EXAMPLE: Alan, Philip's brother, is a doctor in Winnipeg.

C. Add commas where needed in the sentences below.

1. Dr. Perlman a nutritionist is an expert on proper eating.
2. "Students it's important to eat a well-balanced diet," she said.
3. "Yes but how do we know what the right foods are?" asked one student.
4. "First you need to look carefully at your eating habits," said Dr. Perlman.
5. "Yes you will keep a journal of the foods you eat," she said.
6. "Dr. Perlman what do you mean by the right servings?" asked Emilio.
7. "Okay good question," she said.
8. "A serving Emilio is a certain amount of a food," said Dr. Perlman.
9. "Dave a cross-country runner will need more calories than a less active student," explained Dr. Perlman.
10. "Class remember to eat foods from each of the basic food groups," she said.

D. Add commas where needed in the paragraphs below.

Our neighbour Patrick has fruit trees on his property. "Patrick what kinds of fruit do you grow?" I asked. "Well I grow peaches apricots pears and plums" he replied. "Wow! That's quite a variety" I said. Patrick's son Jonathan helps his dad care for the trees. "Oh it's constant work and care" Jonathan said "but the delicious results are worth the effort." After harvesting the fruit Jonathan's mother Allison cans the fruit for use throughout the year. She makes preserves and she gives them as gifts for special occasions. Allison sells some of her preserves to Chris Simon the owner of a local shop. People come from all over the county to buy Allison's preserves.

Jonathan's aunt Christina grows corn tomatoes beans and squash in her garden. Each year she selects her best vegetables and enters them in the fair. She has won blue ribbons medals and certificates for her vegetables. "Oh I just like being outside. That's why I enjoy gardening" Christina said. Christina's specialty squash-and-tomato bread is one of the most delicious breads I have ever tasted.