**Grammar Practice: Commas**

**Commas with Compound Sentences**

Use a comma before the conjunction to separate two independent clauses in a compound sentence.

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| **Compound Sentences** |
| We worked most of the day, but we didn’t finish painting the room.  Not only were we late for the party, but most of the food was gone also. |

**Commas with Series and Adjectives**

Use commas to separate three or more words, phrases, or clauses in a series. Use commas to separate adjectives of equal rank but not to separate adjectives that must stay in a specific order.

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| **With Commas** | **Without Commas** |
| Mom bought chocolate, milk, and cookies for the party.  Eager, devoted fans waited outside the star’s dressing room. | Mom bought milk and cookies for the party.  Many eager fans waited outside the star’s dressing room. |

**Exercise A: Using Commas Correctly.** Add commas where they are needed. One sentence needs no commas.

**Example:** My chores include cleaning my room, dusting the living room, and taking out the trash.

1. The actor delivered the soliloquy in a clear strong voice.
2. My sister goes to college in Ohio and my brother goes to college in Maine.
3. Parsley springs lemon slices and tomato wedges formed an attractive border on the platter.
4. The hot tired campers headed straight for the lake.
5. Janice may bake a cake or we can order one at Farella’s.
6. Have you seen the Jacksons’ three new puppies?
7. Our trip was far from perfect but at least we got home safely.
8. Elmer saw a large lumpy figure moving through the shadows.
9. Jeremy had planned a special meal but it was ruined.
10. Will you fly take the train or drive to California?

**Exercise B: Understanding the Rules for Commas.** Describe the comma rule for each sentence in Exercise A above by writing *compound sentence, series, equal adjectives, or adjectives in order.*

**Example:**  *series .*

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
2. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
3. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
4. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
5. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
6. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
7. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
8. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
9. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
10. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**