

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Using Commas

## When should I use commas?

- 1. Use a comma before a conjunction (and, but, or, yet, so) to join two independent clauses.**  
example: I went to the game, but my team lost.
- 2. Use a comma after an introductory element.**  
example: After a short snooze, Bob got right back to work.
- 3. Use commas to separate items in a series of three or more things.**  
example: I bought sugar, pasta, and juice.
- 4. Use commas to separate adjectives.**  
example: A thin, handsome man approached me after work.

**Directions: Read each sentence. Put commas in the correct places in each sentence.**

1. Even though the paint was still wet I couldn't resist touching it.
2. After the fire burned out I went inside the house.
3. In English class we read *Old Man and the Sea* *Dracula* and *Beowulf*.
4. I watched television took the dog for a walk and drove to the store to get milk.
5. William Shakespeare a famous playwright wrote Macbeth and Hamlet.
6. The three pound bass which was the biggest fish I ever caught tasted delicious.
7. While the turkey was cooking I prepared mashed potatoes.
8. My best friend John just bought a new lawn mower.
9. In the basement mice hide between the boxes.
10. After hiking in the woods for three hours I sat down to have a drink of water.
11. The big gray dog wouldn't stop barking last night.
12. Jane I would like you to meet my mother and father.
13. I need to go to the hardware store to get nails paint and light bulbs.
14. If you liked *Harry Potter* you'll love *Lord of the Rings*.
15. I've had enough of your silly wild and inappropriate behavior.

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# Using Commas - ANSWER KEY

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16. While the turkey was cooking, I prepared mashed potatoes.
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