

Commas (Eight Basic Uses)

To better understand the use of the comma, begin by learning the following eight basic uses:

1. USE A COMMA TO SEPARATE INDEPENDENT CLAUSES.

1. Alexander Pope, the Restoration poet, is famous for his monologues. (**appositive**)
2. The poet Pope is famous for his monologues.

Exercise: Place commas where they belong in the following sentences.

1. Are you attending my graduation or are you visiting your aunt in Chicago?
2. Marty ate four pancakes two bacon strips and a bowl of grits.
3. The movie although Susan enjoyed it immensely left her in tears.
4. Simon Blake a well-known lawyer may run for governor.
5. If you ever need a ride Judy just let me know.
6. "I'll eat the eggs" said Jane "if you'll eat the bacon."
7. The winner of the contest will receive \$1000000.
8. Although the sky was cloudy no rain was in the forecast.

Homework

Edit the following paragraph, adding and deleting commas as needed. Refer to the eight comma rules you have learned and be sure you know why you are adding or deleting a comma.

With her mortarboard firmly on her head Tammy, took her place in the graduation procession which was held on May 12 2009. She told her mother Louisa that she wanted to be the first in the family to get a college degree which would also help her get a good job. In her mind either you could get a degree after high school or you could get a degree later but eventually everyone in the United States would need a college degree. When the chance came for her to go to college, and pay for most of it herself she decided it was a chance she could not afford to pass up. Each course she took in her ambitious undergraduate curriculum was another triumph for her. Another 15 weeks of reading