

The Comma

Use a comma to ...

1) Separate things in a series (_____ , _____ , and _____)

↳ Lists
↳ Addresses
↳ Dates

↑ this comma is optional

2) Separate two adjectives used in a row

eg. My dirty, old car is slow.

3) When **AND / OR / BUT / YET** are used to join a complete

thought, use a comma before the conjunction.

eg. They went to school, and I went home.

4) Separate someone's name from the rest of the sentence (if talking to them directly).

eg. I think, John, that you are amazing!

5) Separate extra info. from the rest of the sentence.

eg. James, who finished second, was awarded a ribbon.

6) Separate an introductory clause/phrase from t.r.o.t.s. (the rest of the sentence).

eg. Sometimes after work, I am extremely hungry.

Sentence Openers

1. Begin with **the subject**

“The policeman listened cautiously for the sound of footsteps.”

2. Begin with **a preposition**—a word that describes where (with, in, on, above, etc) or when something is (before, during, since, etc)

“With caution, the policeman listened for the sound of footsteps.”

3. Begin with **a word ending in “-ly”**

“Cautiously, the policeman listened for the sound of footsteps.”

4. Begin with **a word ending in “-ing”**

“Listening for the sound of footsteps, the policeman was cautious.”

5. Begin with **a clause** (when, while, where, as, since, if, although, because, etc)

“While he listened for footsteps, the policeman was cautious.”

6. Begin with a **VSS** (a “Very Short Sentence”)

“The policeman listened.”

7. Begin with **a word ending in “-ed”**

“Motivated by caution, the policeman listened for footsteps.”

(See next page for more examples)

Sentence Openers

(Write sentence numbers in the margin of the student writing).

1. Subject

The horse sped up the steep slope.
The ferocious bear prowled through the field.
She laughed delightedly at the kitten's antics.

2. Prepositional (use list from Student Handbook)

During the night the boat stole away.
In a panic the child fled.
Above the mountain the plane spluttered and fell.
Since last month three cougars have been spotted near the village.
(since is prepositional with words referring to time, otherwise it is clausal)

If the prepositional phrase is short, no comma is required. When a long prepositional phrase is used as an opener or when two adjoining phrases are used, a comma is often necessary.

3. "ly"

Curiously flamingos take on the colour of the shrimps they eat.

4. "ing"

Roaring, the lion pounced.
Delighting in her work, she smiled with pleasure.
(advanced "ed") **Camped** in the bush, the boys swam and fished.

5. Clausal

Although she limped, she moved quickly.
While the deer grazed peacefully, the cougar silently crept closer.
When the team won, the fans leaped up joyfully.
Since sharks inhabit this water, swimming is unsafe.

6. VSS (very short sentence – five words or fewer)

The plane crashed.
He died.

Prepositions

about	before	except	on	under
above	behind	for	onto	underneath
according to	below	from	opposite	unlike
across	because of	in	out	until
after	beneath	inside	outside	up
against	beside	instead	over	upon
along	between	into	since	with
amid	beyond	like	past	within
among	by	minus	through	without
around	despite	near	throughout	
aside from	down of	to		
at	during	off	toward	

ADVERBS LONG LIST

abnormally	crossly	furiously	luckily	quaintly	surely
absentmindedly	curiously	generally	madly	queenly	surly
absolutely	daintily	generously	meaningfully	queerly	surprisingly
accidentally	dangerously	gently	mechanically	quickly	suspiciously
accurately	delicately	ghastly	meekly	quietly	sympathetically
accusingly	determinedly	ghostly	mentally	rapidly	tenderly
actually	disgustingly	gracefully	messily	readily	tentatively
adversely	doggedly	gradually	miserably	really	terribly
amazingly	dreamily	gratefully	mockingly	reassuringly	thankfully
anxiously	dearly	greedily	naturally	regularly	tightly
arrogantly	deceivingly	grumpily	nearly	relatively	tragically
assuredly	decidedly	guiltily	neatly	reluctantly	tremendously
astoundingly	definitely	happily	necessarily	repeatedly	triumphantly
awkwardly	delightedly	hastily	nervously	reproachfully	truly
badly	delightfully	hatefully	nicely	restfully	truthfully
bashfully	silently	heartily	normally	righteously	ultimately
beautifully	distinctly	heavily	notably	righteously	undeniable
bravely	dreadfully	heavily	obviously	rightfully	unfairly
breathlessly	eagerly	helpfully	occasionally	rigidly	unfortunately
brightly	enormously	helplessly	oddly	rudely	unhappily
briskly	enticingly	highly	openly	sadly	unusually
broadly	entirely	hopefully	orderly	safely	unwillingly
calmly	especially	hopelessly	outwardly	scarcely	urgently
carefully	essential	horribly	passionately	searchingly	usefully
carelessly	evenly	horribly	patiently	sedately	usually
cautiously	eventually	humorously	physically	seemingly	utterly
cautiously	evidently	hungrily	perfectly	selfishly	vastly
certainly	exactly	hurriedly	perpetually	separately	vehemently
cheerfully	excitedly	immediately	physically	sharply	venomously
chilly	exclusively	inadvertently	pleasantly	sharply	viciously
cleanly	expertly	inconveniently	pleasingly	sheepishly	violently
closely	fairly	innocently	poorly	simply	vocally
clumsily	faithfully	instantly	positively	sleepily	warmly
coaxingly	famously	intensely	profusely	slowly	weakly
comfortably	ferociously	intensely	properly	slyly	wearily
commonly	fervently	interestingly	playfully	smoothly	wildly
compassionately	finally	inwardly	positively	softly	willfully
completely	foolishly	inwardly	possibly	solidly	willingly
confidently	fortunately	jokingly	potentially	speedily	wisely
conspicuously	frankly	kindly	potentially	steadily	wistfully
constantly	frantically	kingly	powerfully	sternly	woefully
continually	freely	knightly	practically	strictly	wonderful
continuously	frequently	knowingly	predictably	stubbornly	wonderfully
conveniently	friendly	lightly	presumably	stupidly	wonderingly
correctly	frightfully	likely	primarily	substantially	worldly
cowardly	fully	lonely	probably	successfully	worriedly
coyly	fundamentally	longingly	properly	suddenly	wrinkly
creatively	funnily	loudly	proudly	supposedly	zealously

accused	claimed	fussed	maintained	reasoned	teased
acknowledged	clamoured		mentioned	recalled	taunted
added	clarified	gasped	mimicked	recited	testified
admitted	coaxed	gibed	moaned	recommended	threatened
admonished	commanded	giggled	mocked	recounted	thundered
advised	commented	gloated	mourned	reflected	twittered
affirmed	complained	goaded	mumbled	reiterated	
agreed	complimented	grieved	mused	rejoiced	urged
announced	concluded	groaned	muttered	related	
answered	clucked	growled	remarked	vented	
apologized	consented	grumbled	nagged	reminded	ventured
asserted	continued	grunted	named	reminisced	verified
attested	cooed	gulped	noted	repeated	vowed
	corrected	gurgled	replied		
babbled	cried out		objected	reported	wailed
badgered	criticized	harped on	observed	requested	warned
bantered	croaked	hedged	ordered	responded	wept
barked	crowed	hinted	outlined	restated	wheezed
bawled		hissed		retorted	whimpered
bayed	decided	howled	panted	ridiculed	whined
beckoned	declared		paraphrased	roared	whispered
begged	demanded	implied	persisted		whooped
bellowed	denied	implored	persuaded	sang	wished
beseached	described	indicated	petitioned	scoffed	wondered
blubbered	dictated	inferred	piped	scolded	
bluffed	directed	informed	pleaded	scorned	
blurted	disagreed	inquired	pointed out	screamed	yelled
blustered	disclosed	inserted	pouted	screeched	yelped
boasted	disputed	insinuated	praised	shouted	
bragged	drawled	insisted	preached	shrieked	
breathed	droned	instructed	proclaimed	shuddered	
broadcast		interjected	prodded	sighed	
brooded	echoed	interrupted	promised	smarted off	
	emphasized	intoned	prompted	snapped	
cackled	encouraged	invited	pronounced	snarled	
cajoled	ended		proposed	sneered	
called	exclaimed	jeered	protested	snipped	
cautioned	explained	jested	puffed	snored	
challenged	exploded	joined in	purred	snorted	
chanted	expounded	joked		spat	
charged	expressed	joshed	quacked	specified	
chattered			quarrelled	speculated	
cheered	fabricated	kidded	queried	sputtered	
chided	fibbed		questioned	squawked	
chimed (in)	fitted	lamented	quipped	squeaked	
chirped	finished	lashed out	quizzed	stammered	
chortled	fired	laughed	quoted	stated	
choked	flattered	lied	stressed		
chuckled	fretted	lisped	raged	stuttered	
cited	fumed		rasped		

Words to use instead
of "said"