

USING COMMAS

college, so I earned good grades in high school.

**Introductory (dependent) clauses, phrases, or words
in the main clause:**

Common starter words for clauses:

after	as	if	when
although	because	since	while

While I was eating, the cat scratched at the door.

After the store to + verb Forget a seat, you'd better come early.

To my surprise, I won the award.

Long prepositional phrases:

After the test but before lunch, I went jogging.

In the last moment of the game, we scored the winning goal.

one word before the main clause:

Now, it seems they told the truth.

First, you need eggs.

3. Use a pair of commas in the middle of the sentence to set off phrases, clauses, and words that are *not essential* to the meaning of the sentence. (One comma before to indicate the beginning of the pause and one at the end to indicate the end of the pause.)

Clues:

Can you leave out the clause, phrase, or word and still have the sentence make sense?

Can you move the non-essential element around in the sentence?

Yesterday, the last day of summer, I learned the truth.
The monkeys, without my consent, at all the bananas.

8. Use commas to set off phrases at the end of the sentence which refer back to the beginning or middle of the sentence. (These phrases are free