

Words in a series and equal adjectives need commas to separate them.

- to separate three or more words or phrases in a series.

Do you want peas, carrots, or corn for dinner?

Xavier put his old hiking books, a flannel shirt, and some extra socks in his backpack.

- to separate two or more adjectives that **equally** modify the same noun.*

Use a comma:

Karen always asks interesting, intelligent questions.

The noisy, enthusiastic crowd rooted for their team.

Don't use a comma:

Five little chicks were pecking for bugs.

Light blue flowers swayed in the breeze.

*See Notes to the Teacher on page 103 for additional information.

Place Commas Properly

**Rule
18**

Some of the sentences below require commas to separate words in a series or to separate two equally modifying adjectives. Place the commas correctly. Some sentences will require no commas.

- 1.** People use the Internet to conduct business complete research go shopping and talk with others.
- 2.** The Internet is useful because of its speed and convenience.
- 3.** Shopping from home is quick easy and enjoyable.
- 4.** Tired busy consumers can buy birthday gifts without leaving their living rooms.
- 5.** Business managers can send memos receive important papers and conduct meetings over the Internet.
- 6.** Contracts property titles and funds can all “change hands” over the Internet.
- 7.** Friends and relatives can stay in contact with each other through e-mail.
- 8.** Chatrooms connect people with common interests and similar ideas.
- 9.** Strangers share thoughts research and opinions.
- 10.** The Internet has made the world a smaller friendlier place.

Comma Corrections

Add commas where needed in the sentences below.

1. Pounding rain and rushing wind will weather rocks.
 2. Weathered rocks crumble crack and break.
 3. The cracked and crumbled pieces of rock eventually become part of the soil.
 4. Fast powerful streams carry weathered pieces of rock to new places.
 5. Pieces of weathered rock can end up at the bottom of a riverbed at the foot of a mountain or even on the ocean floor.
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6. The atmosphere is made up of nitrogen oxygen and small amounts of other gases.
 7. The atmosphere is polluted by factory smoke car exhaust and volcano dust.
 8. Things you do every day also pollute the air.
 9. Warm cozy fires in your fireplace pollute the air.
 10. Hot crackling campfires pollute the air.
 11. Even fragrant sweet-smelling perfumes may pollute the air.

Write Series and Adjectives



A Write sentences containing the words or phrases given. Use commas where needed.

1. beautiful landscapes historic sites an amusement park

2. caught the ball ran twenty yards made the touchdown

3. yards vegetable gardens flower patches

4. birthdays anniversaries weddings

B Write sentences in which the two given adjectives are side by side. Use commas where needed.

1. bright blue

2. strong determined
