

Writing Centre

Commas

Commas are used:

- 1. To indicate a pause and/or change in intonation.
- 2. To help meaning.
- 3. As a rule for the structure of a sentence.

Use a comma with:

1. Compound sentences

Compound sentences often use coordinating conjunctions: for, and, nor, but, or yet, so. The coordinating conjunction separates two independent clauses.

, for , and FULL SENTENCE , but , or , yet , so

For example: I like cheese, but I do not eat cheese every day. (full sentence) (full sentence)

I like cheese but not every day. (full sentence) (not full sentence so no comma)

2. Series

For example: I like hockey, baseball and badminton. Kamloops is fun, beautiful and interesting.

3. Introductory Material

For example: When I was young, I played with Barbies. After her shower in the mornings, she eats breakfast. To begin, Kamloops is a very fun place.

4. Interrupter

For example:

Kamloops, which is one of the best cities in BC, is located 3.5 hours from Vancouver. The tutor was too tired, however, to go for a run.