Name: _____

The Rules for Using the Comma

Did you know that the comma is one of the most frequently used punctuation marks?

The comma will put a pause in your sentence:

If you would finish eating your lunch, we could play outside.

The comma separates a list of items:

I like to play with Jan, Jill, Joe and Brad.

When using quotations either at the beginning or the end:

Joe said, "Are you coming to the movie later?"
"Come to the movies," said Joe.

The comma allows you to combine 2 ideas into a single sentence. (Subordinate/Dependent Clause)

While I finished my homework, my friend played the piano.

Use a comma after introductory words or phrases.

Well, you finally finished your homework.

Use a comma to show the relation between a word and a noun phrase that follows. (Apposition)

My teacher, Mr. Clark, is a great singer!

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