**Here's the idea...**

Commas can make sentences clearer by separating certain parts.

**However, using too many commas can just cause confusion!**

**Commas in a Series:**

* In a series of THREE or more items, use a comma after every item except the last one.

Bungee jumping has joined the ranks of surfboarding, skateboarding, and sky surfing as an extreme sport.

* Use commas after first, second, and so on when they introduce items in a series.

Participants are asked to follow three simple rules: first, secure the bungee cord for safety. Second, do not attempt to hold on to anything. Third, have fun!

* Use commas between adjectives of equal importance that modify the same noun.

A young, adventurous man jumped off a 300-foot bridge.

A young, nervous woman decided she wouldn't join him.

TIP:

How can you tell if adjectives needs a comma or the word ***AND*** between them?

Place the word AND between the two adjectives.

If the sentence still makes sense, replace AND with a comma.

The ***hungry, slimy, green*** Martian entered the classroom, grabbed Claudette, and took her to lunch at Bernie’s Burger Emporium.

The three adjectives—***hungry, slimy, and green***—can alternate their positions without hurting the meaning of the sentence:

The ***slimy, hungry, green*** Martian entered the classroom …

The ***hungry, green, slimy*** Martian entered the classroom …

The ***green, slimy, hungry*** Martian entered the classroom …

Likewise, if you can change the order of the adjectives without changing the meaning of a sentence, put a COMMA between them.

While writing his final exam, ***a pale, sweating, panicky*** student stared at his sentence, trying to decide if a comma was necessary between two adjectives.

Notice that you can insert and between the three adjectives and the sentence

still makes sense [although there is some unnecessary repetition].

While writing his final exam, ***a pale and sweating and panicky*** student stared at his sentence …

**Commas with Introductory Elements:**

* Use a comma after an introductory word or a mild interjection such as *oh* or *well*.

*Oh, bungee jumping is not for the faint-hearted.*

*However, if you are a thrill-seeker, then this is the perfect hobby.*

* Use a comma after an introductory prepositional phrase (!!) that contains one or more other prepositional phrases.

*At the beginning of the jump, a person feels a rush of emotions.*

**Commas with Interrupters**

* Use commas to set off words that interrupt the flow of thought in a sentence.

Bungee jumping, by the way, can be done in groups.

A seven-person team, for example, has jumped in a specially designed basket.

Common Interrupters:

however, therefore, for example,

by the way, in fact,

after all, of course, nevertheless

* Use commas to set off nouns of direct address.

A noun of direct address names the person or people being spoken to.

They can be **COMMON** or **PROPER**.

Danny, do you know anyone who has gone bungee jumping?

If you want to learn more about bungee jumping, ladies and gentlemen, Google it.