

Commas to Separate Coordinate Adjectives

Comma: a punctuation mark used mainly for separating parts of a sentence. Looks like an apostrophe but is placed at the baseline (bottom) of writing instead of at top (' vs ,)

Adjective: a word that describes a noun (EX: soft, fluffy, yummy, excruciating, ugly)

Coordinate: equal in rank or importance (EX: you are all coordinate students in my book)

Rule: Use a comma to separate two or more adjectives; however, do not put a comma between the last adjective and the noun.

Some ways to see if you have coordinate adjectives and need the comma:

- Does the sentence make sense if the adjectives are written in reverse order?
- Does the sentence make sense if the adjectives are written with and between them?

EXAMPLES:

Notice - no comma between the last adj & the noun??

- He was a difficult, stubborn child. (coordinate)
- They lived in a white frame house. (non-coordinate) Why no comma here?
- She often wore a gray wool shawl. (non-coordinate)
- Your cousin has an easy, happy smile. (coordinate)

Can you see the difference for coordinate vs. non-coordinate?

EXAMPLES:

- He was a difficult, stubborn child.
- Your cousin has an easy, happy smile.
- My dog, Angel, has a funny, amusing personality.

YOUR TURN - Fix the following sentences:

1. Mr. Brown enjoys working with goofy wild kids.
2. We must travel over several narrow winding treacherous roads.
3. For breakfast we ate two oversized blueberry muffins.
4. The poster depicted a brown-haired blue-eyed child wearing a red denim shirt.
5. The relentless powerful summer sun beat down on them.

YOUR TURN:

Write three sentences of your own that include commas to separate coordinate adjectives in today's notes. Ask a partner for help before asking Mr. Brown or Mrs. Meredith.

YOUR TURN:

Identify two sentences in your outline where you could include commas to separate coordinate adjectives. You may need to add adjectives to a sentence to make this happen. When you're done, put a STAR next to the two sentences where Mr. Brown & Mrs. Meredith can easily identify if you understand this comma rule.