Commas
Compound sentence

- Use a comma to separate the independent clauses in a compound sentence when they are connected with a coordinating conjunction.

- Independent clauses can stand alone as one thought.
Compound sentences

The trial ended without a verdict but the prosecutor still continued investigating.

The detective found new clues and followed them up with some vigor.
Introductory Elements

Phrases

- Participial
  - Always followed by a comma

- Infinitive
  - Followed by a comma when a modifier

- Prepositional
  - Follow by a comma for clarity or 4 or more words
Participial Phrase

Rushing to finish the assignment he forgot the bibliography.
Polishing the furniture turned into an all day job.
Infinitive Phrase

- To realize her dream Jeannie took the bar exam.
- To swim in the Olympics was her dream.
Prepositional Phrase

During the beginning of the Civil War, the Confederacy enjoyed success.

After Christmas, toys are cheaper.
Introductory Adverb Clause

- Always followed by a comma
- Before the concert could start the amplifiers needed to be fixed.
- The recount has been cancelled because the candidate withdrew.
Items in a series

- Each item except the last is followed by a comma. (The comma before “and” is optional.)

- His ruling was fair firm and kind.
Cumulative adjectives

- Order is fixed
- No commas
- The little old house looked tired and lonely.
Coordinate Adjectives

- Equal in weight
- No fixed order

*My battered flattened suitcase lay forgotten on the tarmac.*
Restrictive Elements

- **Restrictive**
  - No commas
  - Needed to identify the word modified

- **Non-restrictive**
  - Need commas
  - Not Needed to identify the word modified
Restrictive vs. Non-restrictive

- The window broken by the hail needs repairing.
- My window broken by the hail needs repairing.
Restrictive vs. Non-restrictive

- Eric who loved to bet on the ponies was fortunate to have a steady income.
- The car which had been towed belonged to my uncle.
Restrictive vs. Non-restrictive

Ernest Hemingway my favorite author died in 1961.