Commas – Basic Lesson 4: Commas With Interrupting Elements
“Interrupters”

Here is a perfectly good sentence:
LaMont and his brother walked to school on Monday.

You already know that you could add an introductory word or group of words to the beginning of such a sentence.

Examples: Yes, LaMont and his brother walked to school on Monday.
After they stopped at three convenience stores, LaMont and his brother walked to school on Monday.

It is also possible to add a word or a group of words somewhere in the middle of the sentence, interrupting the flow of the sentence.

Examples: LaMont and his brother, incidentally, walked to school on Monday.
LaMont and his brother, by the way, walked to school on Monday.
LaMont and his brother, the one who usually drove his car, walked to school on Monday.

Notice that the commas are places on both sides of the interrupting word or words.

Punctuate – You try!
Directions:
• Add commas as needed to the sentences below. (If a sentence doesn’t need a comma, don’t add one.)

1. No one in the school however knew that Bill’s middle name was “Noodles.”
2. The Titanic an unsinkable ship sank.
3. My brother thinks that cauliflower the world’s friendliest vegetable goes well with chocolate sauce.
4. Mrs. Gymtoe after being hypnotized by Professor Drool during an assembly fell off the stage into a pile of seventh graders.
5. The most important thing the astronauts took to the moon not counting a ton of powdered vegetables was a shiny roll of duct tape.

Write your own
Directions:
• Write two sentences that include an interrupting element.

1. ___________________________________________ _______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
Commas – Basic Lesson 5: Commas With Interrupting Elements

“Ending Stuff”

You have already learned about introductory words at the beginning of sentences and interrupting elements in the middle of sentences. “Stuff” can also be tacked on to the end of sentences. A word, a phrase or a clause can come after the main part of the sentence.

Examples:
- I want another cookie, Mom.
- I want it now, by the way.
- My favorite kind of cookie is oatmeal, incidentally.
- I love oatmeal cookies, the kind with both raisins and nuts.
- Mom cooked a huge meal, at the same time balancing the check book.

Punctuate – You try!

Directions:
- Add commas as needed to the sentences below. (If a sentence doesn’t need a comma, don’t add one.)

1. You are my fondest memory by the way.
2. I must have that lobster in the window the one with the sumptuous tail.
3. I never expected you to tell everyone Harvey.
4. You can’t go to the movies in that ridiculous outfit Melanie.
5. I like ridiculous outfits Mom.

Write Your Own

Directions:
- Write two sentences of your own that includes ending “stuff.”
- Choose from the following ending elements:
  - Incidentally, on the other hand, Ellie, which makes me grit my teeth, the habit I hate the most, by the way, making me want to scream

1. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
Have you ever had a compound fracture in your arm or leg? A compound fracture means you have not one but **two** breaks in your bone. A compound sentence means that you have not one but **two** parts to your sentence. If you want to get fancy, you can call those “parts” **independent clauses**.

Here’s a simple sentence with one independent clause.

*Alexis ate an enchilada.*

That sentence is a simple sentence. It is also an independent clause. That means it can stand alone. Now let’s look at another independent clause.

*Armand gobbled up four tacos and an order of refried beans.*

That’s another simple sentence. It is also an independent clause.

Now, suppose we put the two sentences above together, with the word “and”:

*Alexis ate an enchilada, and Armand gobbled up four tacos and an order of refried beans.*

Now we have two complete sentences (or independent clauses), connected with the word *and*.

That brings us to a comma rule:

**In a compound sentence, put a comma before a conjunction: for, and, but, nor, or, yet or so.**

**Punctuate — You try!**

**Directions:**
- Add commas as needed to the sentences below. (If a sentence doesn’t need a comma, don’t add one.)
- Remember, you only need the comma with the *and* if you are separating two independent clauses.

1. Turkeys are not exactly known for their great brain power and nobody thinks that worms are likely to win scholarships to Harvard.
2. He hated television and music but he loved doing algebra equations more than anything on Earth.
3. Mary and Joe went on a hike up the Absolom Canyon on a beautiful fall day.

**Write your own**

**Directions:**
- Write two compound sentences of your own.
- Include a comma and a conjunction in each sentence! Conjunction choices: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

1. ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
HOMEWORK – Commas Practice 2
(Commas – Basic Lessons 4, 5 and 7)

PART I – INTERRUPTORS (Basic Lesson 4):
Directions:
- Add commas wherever you think they belong!
- Insert them using the appropriate editing mark: ^
- Example: It is clear they say that studying helps improve performance on tests.

1. Ichiban in my opinion is a wonderful restaurant.
2. I haven’t of course seen a movie in a long time because there is no way Cadence will sit still!
3. I have been listening to holiday music believe it or not for over three weeks already.
4. Pink by the way is Cadence’s favorite color.
5. I am sick of watching Yo Gabba Gabba to tell you the truth because that’s all my daughter wants to watch!

PART II – ENDING STUFF (Basic Lesson 5):
Directions:
- Add commas wherever you think they belong!
- Insert them using the appropriate editing mark: ^
- Example: Stop swimming up to the surface of the ocean Ariel.

6. I love donuts especially the kind with the chocolate icing and rainbow sprinkles.
7. Stop throwing your food onto the floor and just eat it Cadence.
8. Donuts are a delicious treat that you can enjoy any time of day by the way.
9. Enjoying a steaming cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows is a great way to warm up after being outside on a cold day for example.
10. I love to buy clothes for Cadence and her new baby brother at Gymboree the children’s store I love the most.

PART III – COMPOUNDS (Basic Lesson 7):
Directions:
- Add commas wherever you think they belong!
- Insert them using the appropriate editing mark: ^
- Example: I went to the musical last weekend and I was so impressed by all the talented students!

11. I love to go shopping on Black Friday but I think that stores don’t need to open at 5 p.m.!
12. Store workers need to be able to spend time with their families and they need to enjoy the holiday too.
13. I want to see Catching Fire when it comes out in a few weeks but we will be at the Penguins game instead.
14. I love to go to the Penguins game because I like to eat the food and I like to buy souvenirs.
15. I am going to buy a kilbasea grinder sandwich, popcorn, cotton candy and a s’mores milkshake for they are the most delicious foods at Consol Energy Center.
PART IV.
Write your own – Using an interrupter

Directions:
- Write two sentences of your own, each beginning with an introductory word that needs to be set off with a comma.
- Example: Baking brownies, for example, is a fun activity to do.

1. _______________________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________

Write your own – Using “ending stuff”

Directions:
- Write two sentences of your own, each using “ending stuff” at the end of the sentence.
- Example: Making people enjoy baking brownies, which is a fun activity to do.

1. _______________________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________

Write your own – Compounds

Directions:
- Write two compound sentences of your own.
- Choose a joining element for each sentence: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so
- Example: I enjoy baking brownies, for you can make a delicious treat!

1. _______________________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________