

Uses of the comma

The comma is used to indicate a pause between parts of a sentence.

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Before and after words used in apposition to a noun

Winston Churchill, the statesman, was also an eminent writer.

Janaki, my sister, is an eminent cardiologist.

To separate two or more nouns, adjectives, or adverbs that come together

England, Russia and France formed an alliance.

To separate a participial phrase

Feeling tired, I went to bed.

Being fat, she couldn't run fast.

To mark off a noun

James, can we bank on him?

Mary, have your meals.

John, come here.

After an introductory phrase or clause

To be honest, I have little interest in politics.

For God's sake, leave me alone.

In the name of justice, be fair to that poor man.

To indicate the omission of a verb in cases where repetition should be avoided

My brother bought a watch and my sister, a camera. (= My brother bought a watch and my sister bought a camera.)

Before and after words or phrases let into the body of a sentence

She had, surprisingly, paid for everything.

The boy had, in spite of all the hardships he faced, managed to succeed.

To separate a subordinate clause from the main clause

Uses of the comma

After he had finished his job, he went out.

When I opened the door, the cat jumped in.

The comma can be omitted when the subordinate clause goes after the main clause.