**Use a comma to separate INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION from the rest of the sentence. The following words are often used to introduce an idea:**

When/ Although/ As/ Because/ Before/ If /Since /Unless/ Until /After/ Whenever/ While

Example: **After** I finished all my math homework, I decided to call a friend.

**Use a comma to set apart the exact words of a QUOTATION from the rest of the sentence.**

Example: "Call me when you get home**,**" said her mother.

**Use a comma to separate TWO OR MORE ADJECTIVES before a noun. (Do not use a comma after the last adjective. A comma is not used for colors or numbers.)**

Example: I don't like **hot**, **humid** weather.

**Use a comma to separate items in a DATE. Do not use a comma between the month and the day of the month. Use a comma after the date if the sentence continues.**

Example: On Saturday**,** June 29**,** I'll have two graduation parties to attend.

**Use a comma to separate ITEMS IN A SERIES (listing / after every item except the last).**

Example: We visited Epcot Center**,** Sea World**,** and Busch Gardens on our vacation.

**Use a comma to separate TRANSITIONS from the sentence (such as first, next, finally, also, later in the story, in addition, etc.).**

Example: **Therefore**, I believe young people should not smoke.

**Use a comma after YES, NO, or WELL, if it begins the sentence.**

Example: **No**, I have never been to Disney World.

**Use a comma to set apart a NAME BEING SPOKEN TO.**

Example: **Tom**, what time is your dad picking us up?

**EXPLAINERS – Use commas to set apart a noun or phrase that explains or identifies something. (also called an appositive phrase.)**

Example: Adam Smith, **a seventh-grade student**, won the essay contest.

**Use commas to set apart INTERRUPTERS, words or expressions that break the flow of thought in a sentence.**

Example: The winners, **of course**, must be present.

**Use a comma to separate TWO INDEPENDENT CLAUSES from each other. The following words are often used to separate two independent clauses:**

For / And / Nor / But / Or / Yet / So

Example: I know we will pass the STAAR, **for** we have been studying a lot.

**Use a comma to separate A PARTICIPLE from the rest of the sentence. PARTICIPLES have an ing or ed verb added onto a sentence:**

Example: **Squealing with delight**, the birthday boy ripped open his presents.