

The Comma (IV)

Use commas to set off nouns of direct address. A noun of direct address names the person to whom the speaker is speaking.

Come in, Steve, and close the door.

If the commas are omitted, the reader may be confused.

Use commas to set off most appositives. Appositives are words placed immediately after other words to make those other words clearer and more definite. Most appositives are nouns.

Mrs. Gross, my aunt, is in Florida.

When an appositive is used with modifiers, the whole group is set off with commas.

Ann, the captain of the team, is in my class.

When a noun in apposition is a first name, it is not usually set off by commas.

This is my sister Mary.

Using Commas with Nouns of Direct Address and with Appositives. Add commas where necessary in the following sentences.

1. Ms. Cavendish the insurance agent called you.
2. Dad this is my math teacher Mr. Grierson.
3. Chuckles the clown in the circus is friendly.
4. Aunt Jan I'd like you to meet my friend Millie.
5. Did you see my dog Ron?

Using Commas. Rewrite the following sentences, combining each pair into a single sentence by using a noun in apposition.

1. Dr. Tignino is our dentist. She is patient with us.
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2. The coach is Mr. Fisher. He is a strict man.
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3. The book on the shelf is *Treasure Island*. It has a leather cover.
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4. We visited the Art Institute. It is a beautiful building.
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5. Lorraine has joined the gymnastics squad. She is the new student.
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