

Lesson

17 Punctuation: Commas in Series and Introductions

 Your audience will give applause if you use commas to show a pause.

..... **Did You Know?**

A comma follows each item in a series except the last one.

New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago have well-known city parks.

A comma follows an introductory word or phrase to separate it from the rest of the sentence.

Yes, Central Park is in New York.
Before the concert, people waited in the park.

A comma is used to show a pause you would make if you were saying the sentence aloud.

We planned a picnic in the park, but we had to cancel it because of the rain.

.....

Show What You Know

Read the report below. Add commas after each word in a series and after introductory words.

There once was a Russian who made beautiful eggs for the czar, or ruler of Russia. Carl Fabergé made eggs that were covered with gold silver and other precious metals. Diamonds pearls and valuable jewels decorated other eggs. There was a surprise in each egg. A small golden carriage a diamond-studded flower basket or a royal crown may be found in a Fabergé egg. Today each egg is worth a great deal of money. Collectors own these special eggs, and they seldom offer the eggs for sale.

Score: _____ Total Possible: 6

Proofread

This paragraph on immigrants contains six mistakes in the use of commas. Use a caret to add commas where they are needed.

Example: No, I do not like to play soccer.

Between 1880 and 1923, 23 million people came to the United States. Most of these people came from Germany Ireland, Poland and Italy. Many left because there was not enough work in their country. Land in the United States was very cheap and there were many jobs in this country. After arriving in the United States immigrants often settled in areas with other people from their homelands. Areas like Chinatown Little Italy and Greektown sprang up in cities all across the United States.

Practice

On another piece of paper, write a letter to a friend telling about things you would like to do during summer vacation. Use sentences that list things in a series. Use an introductory word like *yes*, *no*, or *well* to begin one sentence.



Tips for Your Own Writing: Revising

Choose a piece of your own writing. Rewrite it by adding names, action words, or descriptive words in a series. Make sure you use commas to separate the words in a series.

 *Yes, it is true! Using commas can make your writing clear, understandable, and easy to read.*