

Commas Continued

Nonessential Interrupting Words and Phrases

Place commas around a word or phrase that meets these two conditions: 1. It is not necessary for the sentence to make sense. 2. It interrupts the flow of the sentence, almost as if the word or phrase could be put in parentheses.

We cannot, **however**, allow them to launch another attack.

This is the first time, **I believe**, we have been faced with layoffs.

You understand, **of course**, that pets require a lot of work.

Yellowstone, **the nation's first national park**, welcomes millions of visitors every year.

George Washington, **although an inspirational leader**, was not a brilliant military strategist.

Dates and Places

Place a comma between and after the city and state or nation.

I grew up in Billings, Montana.

They went on their honeymoon to Paris, France.

I grew up in Billings, Montana, during the 1980s.

Place a comma between and after the date and the year.

America declared independence from Britain on July 4, 1776.

On July 4th, 1776, American colonies declared independence from Britain.

Note: Omit the comma if the sentence does not give the day of the month.

June 1944 marked an important turning point in World War II.

I was born in October of 1965.

Addressing Someone Directly

Place commas around a person or group directly addressed in the sentence. If the person is being referred to, but not addressed directly, no comma is needed.

First of all, **Mandy**, you need to spend more time doing homework.

Sarah, please accept my apology for forgetting about our date.

I wonder if David will come to my party on Saturday. (no comma necessary)