

# WHEN SHOULD I USE A COMMA?

## Between independent clauses (with coordinator):

We walked through the garden, but we didn't see any bees.

## After (long) introductory prepositional phrases:

At yesterday's barbeque in the park, we ate ten pounds of potato salad.

## After introductory verbals:

Running down the mountain, the hiker fell and broke his leg.  
Exhausted, Grandmother decided to take a break.

## After introductory dependent clauses:

Although we had driven fifty miles, Father did not stop to rest.  
When you get to Six Flags, be sure to ride the roller coaster.  
While the seagulls were screaming, Lucy ate her sandwich on the beach.  
Unless you make a passing grade on your final, you will fail the course.

## To set off non-restrictive elements:

Her hobbies, which included rock climbing and music, led her to a job.  
The area is famous for pink grapefruit, which is unusually sweet.  
The greatest quarterback of all time was Staubach, who played for the Dallas Cowboys.

## To set off parenthetical elements (modifies whole sentence):

The king, according to various textbooks, had eight wives.  
He was not, strictly speaking, a man of the cloth.

## To set off interjections:

Ouch, that hurts.  
Hey, you're kinda cute.