

Commas Go **After**...

■ **Introductory Words and Phrases**

- As a matter of fact, he did graduate high school.
- However, Brad didn't go to the movies.
- Yelling obscenities, the lady sped off.
- To pass the Economics test, you must study very hard.
 - To pass the Economics test without studying is unheard of.

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Check your work!! If what comes after the comma is not a complete sentence, there should not be a comma there!

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Types of Introductory Words and Phrases

- **Mild exclamations**
 - Yes, I did finish my homework.
 - Sure, I'll go with you.
 - Also, don't forget to bring your donation.
- **Participle or Participial Phrases**—VERB phrase describing subject
 - Shivering, the couple hurried into the warm lobby of the theater.
 - Calling for a timeout, the referee blew his whistle.
- **Prepositional Phrase**
 - During the long bus ride home, we sang songs and told stories.
 - By the light of the harvest moon, we went on an old-fashioned hay ride.
- **Adverb Clause**—used to describe the subject
 - When you've gone to this school for awhile, you'll know your way around, too.
 - When he was twelve years old, Mozart composed his first opera.
 - Since many cookbooks now include dairy-free recipes, you can learn many new options.

Commas that Come After

Mark correct sentences as C. Write and Correct Incorrect sentences.

1. To stay in shape for competition athletes must exercise every day.
2. Meanwhile the athletes trained on the Nautilus equipment.
3. Still, the credibility of some witnesses was in question.
4. Extracting the most profit for the least expenditure on labor and materials, is the primary goal of a capitalist.
5. With the wind blowing violently, the townspeople began to seek shelter.
6. After the adjustment for inflation real wages have decreased while corporate profits have grown.
7. Preparing and submitting his report was one of the most difficult tasks Bill had ever attempted.
8. To start a new business without doing market research would be foolish.
9. Barking insistently Smokey got us to throw his ball for him.
10. As a popular and well respected mayor Tom Bailey was the clear favorite in the campaign for governor.

Commas Go **Around**...

Nonessential Elements and Interrupters

Write these notes:

If the phrase:

1. Clarifies who or what—**essential**
2. Only adds extra information--**nonessential**

■ **NONESSENTIAL**

- The man forgot, however, where he had placed his keys.
- Mary Roberts, calling out Joe's name, ran down the street.
- Our neighbor, who enjoys hiking, is on vacation.

■ **ESSENTIAL**

- Each student who is going on the field trip must turn in a permission slip.
- The woman who is running the cash register just went on break.

Commas Go **Around**...

Nonessential Elements and Interrupters

Extra tips:

- If the phrase starts with “which,” it’s **nonessential**
- If the phrase starts with “that,” it’s **essential**
- If the person in the sentence has a name, the phrase is usually **nonessential**

Commas that Go Around

Mark each sentence as C or I. Correct Incorrect sentences.

1. Sally, whom you met at last night's dance, wants to know if you found her purse.
2. The game as you remember was a tie.
3. The French artist Jaques Laurent appeared at a speaking engagement in New York.
4. Mr. Duffy named as college counselor in 1985 has been promoted to Duke of Students.
5. My husband who won last year's prize was disqualified from the competition.
6. Fred, green with envy, refused to acknowledge Harvey's mastery of the game of Yahtze.
7. Jim, sheriff of Monroe County, wanted to question the witness.
8. The boy, who broke my car window, brought flowers to my house.
9. The parole violator must of course pay his fine.
10. The dog that dug up my garden was returned to its owner.