

More Commas (Day 5)

Study these rules!

Here's the Idea

Commas to Avoid Confusion

▶ Use a comma whenever readers might misinterpret a sentence without it.

UNCLEAR: Before the rodeo cowboys competed against one another for fun.

CLEAR: Before the rodeo, cowboys competed against one another for fun.

Commas with Quotations

▶ Use commas to separate direct quotations from explanatory words like *he said*, *Greg replied*, and *Shella asked*. If the explanatory words precede the quotation, insert a comma before the quoted words.

Mr. Cruz said, "The rodeo was born during the era of the cattle industry, in the 1860s and 1870s."

If the explanatory words interrupt a quotation, insert a comma inside the quotation marks before the explanatory words and another comma after the explanatory words.

"Cowboys would gather together," Mr. Cruz said, "and compete against one another in steer roping and bronco riding."

If the explanatory words follow a quotation, insert a comma inside the quotation marks before the explanatory words.

"Today cowboys compete against each other for monetary awards," added Mr. Cruz.

Commas in Compound Sentences

▶ Use a comma to separate independent clauses joined by a conjunction in a compound sentence.

Rodeos are held in many parts of the United States, but they are also popular in Mexico, Canada, and Australia.

Do not use a comma to separate the parts of a two-part

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Do exercises on back

Commas with Nonessential Clauses

▶ Use commas to set off nonessential clauses. A nonessential clause adds extra information to a sentence but is not necessary to the meaning of the sentence.

Trick riding and fancy roping, which are virtually unknown to rodeo fans today, were popular events during the 1920s and 1930s.

Essential clauses are necessary to the meaning of sentences and are not set off with commas.

Fancy roping originated among those Mexican horsemen who are known as charros.

Commas in Letters, Place Names, and Dates



Dear Samantha,
 On June 25, 2008, my family is planning to take a trip to Houston, Texas, for a rodeo show. We also plan to visit the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame. The museum is located at 111 West Fourth Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102. I thought you might want to join us, since we'll be in your neighborhood. What do you say?
 Sincerely,
 Anna

- Comma after the salutation of a friendly letter
- Commas to set off a year number following a date
- Commas to set off the name of a state or country following the name of a city or town
- Comma after each part of an address (but not before the ZIP code)
- Comma after the closing

Peanuts by Charles Schulz



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