

Comma & Punctuation Rules

6th Grade

The eight comma rules, semicolons, colons and apostrophes — each with an example.

Nearly every comma mistake is one of these eight rules used, or missed.

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|---------------------|---|
| Comma 1 | Between items in a list
<i>We bought bread, cheese and figs.</i> |
| Comma 2 | Before and / but / so joining two full sentences
<i>It rained, so we stayed in.</i> |
| Comma 3 | After an introductory word or phrase
<i>After the film, we walked home.</i> |
| Comma 4 | Around extra, removable information
<i>My aunt, a pilot, called.</i> |
| Comma 5 | Between two adjectives of the same kind
<i>a cold, grey morning</i> |
| Comma 6 | Before a direct quotation
<i>She said, "Wait here."</i> |
| Comma 7 | Around the name of the person spoken to
<i>Thanks, Ravi, for helping.</i> |
| Comma 8 | In dates and addresses
<i>March 4, 2026, in Leeds</i> |
| Semicolon ; | Joins two closely linked full sentences
<i>It rained; we stayed in.</i> |
| Colon : | Introduces a list, quote or explanation
<i>Bring three things: map, torch, water.</i> |
| Apostrophe ' | Contraction, or possession (s' after a plural)
<i>don't · the dog's lead · the dogs' leads</i> |
| Dash — | Sets off a sharp break or a strong aside
<i>He left — without a word — at dawn.</i> |

If both halves could stand alone, you need ; or a comma + joining word.