

Use a Comma to Indicate a Pause

Commas indicate a small break, separating words, clauses, or ideas within a single sentence. A comma often indicates an instance when a speaker would pause in speech.

Insert a comma to indicate a pause in sentences with the following elements:

interjections	Oh my, this is the most exquisite New York cheesecake in the world.
appositives	The summer solstice, sometimes called midsummer, is the longest day of the year.
direct addresses	Kendra, will you recite your poem at the showcase tomorrow night?
introductory phrases or clauses	With a backpack full of supplies, Eamonn started on his six-month hike of the Appalachian Trail.

Directions: Add commas where they are needed to indicate a pause in each sentence.

1. Jay, what do you think was the most heroic moment in *The Giver*?
2. Tony Hawk, the iconic skateboarder, started skating when he was just nine years old.
3. I would say it's, oh, about three hours to get from Dallas to Austin if you leave at the right time.
4. Well, I guess we should start heading back to the cottage before the storm comes.
5. Although the Leaning Tower of Pisa was originally created as a bell tower, its seven bells were silenced because experts feared the vibration would further worsen the structure's stability.
6. It was a surprise that Ernest Shackleton, an explorer who led three British expeditions to the Antarctic, survived the extreme conditions of his journeys.
7. Class, we will wrap up our sustainability unit in science with a field trip to the landfill and recycling center.
8. Lala, my first dog, was well known throughout the neighborhood for her reluctance to stay in the backyard.
9. If you consider the lyrics, you can understand the songwriter's perspective on pursuing your dreams.
10. Yes, our family goes camping at Sequoia National Park for a week every year.
11. In an effort to make new friends, Emmeline is going to join a local kickball league.
12. Nada and Mona, when would you have to leave your house to catch the four-o'clock train?

