

Comma Use with Items in a Series and Coordinate Adjectives

VOCABULARY

Series

A list of three or more things.

Coordinate Adjectives

Two or more adjectives that modify the same noun separately.

THE RULE

1. Use commas to separate each item in a series.
 2. Use a comma between coordinating adjectives.
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PRACTICE *Comma Usage in a Series*

Error: Recent research shows that students and parents alike look at **academic reputation faculty credentials and the accomplishments of graduates** when choosing a college to attend.

Correction: Recent research shows that students and parents alike look at **academic reputation, faculty credentials, and the accomplishments of graduates** when choosing a college to attend.

Error: The campus activities office works hard to execute many activities and events on campus, including **concerts, movie nights and intramural sports.**

Correction: The campus activities office works hard to execute many activities and events on campus, including **concerts, movie nights, and intramural sports.** (*Omitting a comma between the last two items in a series can cause ambiguity in some lists, so it is preferable to place a comma in that position.*)

PRACTICE *Comma Usage with Coordinating Adjectives*

Error: My father is a **kind generous** soul.

Correction: My father is a **kind, generous** soul.

Error: Emily picked the **delicious chocolate** cake for dessert.

Correction: Emily picked the **delicious, chocolate** cake for dessert.