Commas

Reading
What is the purpose of commas?

Commas tell us to ______________________ briefly while we are reading, but what are they used for?

Let's eat grandma.
Let's eat, grandma.

COMMAS SAVE LIVES
Punctuation in dates and place names

★ Use a comma between the number of the day and the number of the year
  ○ April 8, 2017

★ If the date does not come at the end of the sentence, a comma goes after the year as well
  ○ I was born on March 19, 1988, in Winchester Hospital.

★ Do not use a comma in a date that only has the month and year
  ○ May 2020

★ Use a comma between the town/city and the state
  ○ Manchester, Massachusetts
Punctuation in dates and place names

★ Use a comma between the city/state/town and country
  ○ Amman, Jordan

★ If the information does not come at the end of the sentence, a comma goes after the state as well
  ○ On my visit to Cairo, Egypt, I learned many new things.

★ Place the commas in this sentence:
  ○ I once visited Cozumel Mexico in the summer of 1969.
Compound sentences

★ Use a comma before a conjunction in a compound sentence because two ideas are being combined into one sentence.
  ○ FANBOYS: FOR, AND, NOR, BUT, OR, YET, SO
  ○ Eighteen people tried, but no one succeeded

★ Do you use a comma here?
  ○ I ate ice cream and brownies for dessert.
In a series (list)

★ Use commas to separate words or items in a series or list
  ○ Jamie, Mitch, Kim, Lou, and Pablo entered the contest.
  ○ Each person was responsible for completing the task, turning it in, and responding to one other person.

★ Place the commas where they are needed
  ○ Mark Lucy and Sam went to the store for candy milk and bread before the May 14 2015 storm.
After introductory phrases (dependent)

★ Use a comma after a phrase that comes before the subject of the sentence
  ○ This phrase is usually a dependent clause (it cannot stand alone)
    ■ In the old dresser, I found my grandfather’s ring

★ Place the commas in this sentence
  ○ After the movie I went to get dinner with Tim Fred and Joe.
Interjections and Transitions

★ Use a comma after a transition word or phrase or after an interjection (wow, whoa, phew, etc)
  ○ In conclusion, I found the study fascinating.
  ○ Wow, that’s amazing.

★ Place the commas in the following sentences
  ○ In addition animals people and some machines can have feelings.
  ○ After the near accident I said phew that was close!
Addressing a specific person

★ Use a comma when specifically addressing a person
  ○ Francisco, get the lamp!

★ Place the commas in the sentences.
  ○ Bob please grab the soap bucket and sponge.
  ○ Whoa that was a lot of work Caroline.
Appositive Clauses

★ Use commas with added information (appositive clauses). If you can take
the information in the commas out and the sentence still makes sense, it is
probably an appositive clause

○ Michael, the best soccer player, scored the last goal.
○ The costume was worn by George Reeves, Hollywood’s first Superman

★ Put the commas in the sentence

○ At the end of the day Ms. Burgess the teacher works hard to provide comfort instruction
and support.
After greetings or closings

★ Use a comma after a greeting or a closing in a friendly letter
  ○ Dear Ms. Burgess, What was the homework?
  ○ Hello, Can I borrow your book? Thank you, Tom.

★ Please put commas in this note:
  ○ Mark Please return my soap. Sincerely Jill
★ How should you address emails?
With quotation marks

★ Use a comma to separate a quotation from who is speaking
  ○ So he said, “tell my mom I’m not coming.”

★ Put commas in the following sentence
  ○ “Due to the storm it was raining yesterday” Bill said “so we did not go to the park store or post office.”
In between two adjectives

★ When you use more than one adjective to describe something, you place a comma in between the adjectives
  ○ The white, fluffy bunny was soft and warm.

★ Place commas in the following sentence
  ○ Wahoo despite the rain the new improved field was ready for practice games or events.