

7 places to use **COMMAS**

1 To separate independent clauses that are connected by *for*, *and*, *nor*, *but*, *or*, *yet*, or *so*

- Monkeys love bananas, for they are delicious.
- Will the monkey eat the banana, or will it eat the apple?
- It ate the banana, but it didn't eat the apple.

2 After clauses, phrases, or words that introduce the main clause

- Because it ate a banana, the monkey was satisfied.
- After eating, the monkey took a nap.
- However, the monkey woke up an hour later.

3 To separate a clause, phrase, or word that isn't essential to the meaning of the sentence

- My pet monkey, whose name is Oscar, eats bananas every day.
- Tuesday, which is the day when I buy groceries, is my monkey's favorite day.

4 To separate a series of three or more words, phrases, or clauses

- Oscar has three sisters named Gertrude, Mildred, and Felicia.
- Oscar spends his time eating bananas, taking naps, and climbing trees.

5 To separate two or more adjectives that describe the same noun

- Oscar is a playful, intelligent, mischievous monkey.
- Oscar ate a rotten, smelly banana.
- Now Oscar is a tired, sick, cranky monkey.

6 To separate addresses, geographical names, and parts of dates

- Oscar and I live at 640 Spence Lane, Nashville, Tennessee, 37217.
- Oscar would like to visit Paris, France.
- He was born on April 1, 2008.

7 To introduce or end a quotation inside a sentence

- I shouted, "Stop eating all of my bananas!"
- "I can't stop," said Oscar, "because I'm so hungry."
- "My monkey can talk," I told Allison.



Nashville, TN, USA | iei.edu