

TROUBLESHOOTING ON TUESDAY

We have learned two basic comma rules so far:

- ☐ how to use commas when setting off geographical names, items in dates, and addresses
- ☐ how to use commas when separating three or more words, phrases, or clauses written in a series

We also have studied the correct way to use commas with quotation marks.

Comma Review

Directions:

Show what you know by correctly inserting the comma (or commas) in the following story

Mr. Spacey will always remember what happened on Friday October 13 1999 while taking his dog for a walk. He was hiking through the hills of Tucson Arizona when he heard a strange rumbling in the sky. "The alien ship appeared right before my own two eyes" he said. "I saw a red cloud a blue puff of smoke and a flashing light" he explained "but no actual alien being." He immediately ran into his house at 1313 Thirteenth Avenue to find that the phone was ringing. Mr. Spacey picked up the receiver and frantically asked "Who is calling?" Scientists have no explanation for what happened next.

Comma Rule #3

USING COMMAS WITH INDEPENDENT CLAUSES
WHEN JOINED BY A COORDINATING CONJUNCTION

Use commas to separate independent clauses when they are joined by any of these seven coordinating conjunctions: *and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet*

What's an INDEPENDENT CLAUSE? It is a group of words that contains a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought. Simply put, an independent clause is a sentence.

- ☐ The game was over, **but** the crowd refused to leave.
- ☐ The student explained her question, **yet** the teacher felt confused.
- ☐ Yesterday was her brother's birthday, **so** she took him out to dinner.
- ☐ The family ate dinner, **and** then the children washed the dishes.

Notice how the above sentences differ from the sentences below:

- ☐ She played the piano **but** preferred dancing.
- ☐ Every night he slept a full eight hours **yet** woke up tired.
- ☐ There are **so** many books **for** me to read!
- ☐ I took a taxi **and** arrived at the airport before anyone else on my flight.
- ☐ I like learning about commas **because** it is very interesting