

Troubleshooting on Tuesday--Comma Rule #1

USING COMMAS WITH GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES, DATES AND ADDRESSES

Remember these?

- He was born on May 17, 1972, in Mesa, Arizona, and grew up there until his high school graduation in June 1990.
- She lived in Pleasant Hill, California, for two years before attending college in Providence, Rhode Island.
- He moved from Zanesville, Ohio, in January 1980 to Louisville, Kentucky.
- She wrote the President at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC.

RELEVANT RULE

Use commas to set off all geographical names, items in dates (*except the month and day*) and addresses (*except the street number and name*).

Practice Makes Perfect

Using the examples and the relevant rule as you guide, write in commas where needed.

Grover is setting aside June 2012 as the "Year of the Road Trip." He hopes to start in Portland Oregon and end in Portland Maine. Grover is planning on setting up his tent at campgrounds on Monday June 11 Tuesday June 12 and Wednesday June 13. Then he will stay at the house of his aunt before she travels to Tel Aviv Israel. She lives at 1234 North Cannonball Lane Boulder Colorado. The rest of the schedule for his trip is currently up in the air. It will depend on who he meets along the way. He is hoping to arrive in Portland Maine on either June 28 2012 or June 29 2012.

Troubleshooting on Tuesday--Comma Rule #2

USING COMMAS BETWEEN ITEMS IN A SERIES

RELEVANT RULE

Use commas to separate three or more words, phrases, or clauses written in a series.

Examples:

- He ordered a sandwich, potato chips, a dill pickle and a soda.
- He ordered a sandwich, potato chips, a dill pickle, and a soda.
- The prosecutor argued that the defendant was at the scene of the crime, had a strong revenge motive and had access to the murder weapon and the victim.
- The prosecutor argued that the defendant was at the scene of the crime, had a strong revenge motive, and had access to the murder weapon and the victim.

Note: It is permissible to omit the comma before the **and** connecting the last two items of a series, but more often it is used. Just remember to be consistent!

Practice Makes Perfect

Using the examples and the relevant rule as you guide, write in commas where needed.

Grover is most excited about camping out seeing his aunt and reaching Portland Maine. Grover loves nature and is hoping to see lakes rivers waterfalls and at least five flying squirrels. He also likes the idea of stopping at diners along the way and eating his favorite foods: roasted chicken steamed broccoli and cheese-less quiche with onions spinach zucchini and red peppers. June 2012 seems a long time away. Grover will pass the time by practicing tiddly winks and planning more of this exciting road trip.