Comma Uses

Use #1: Combine two strong clauses joined with a coordinating conjunction.
Example: *School is still in session for another nine weeks**, so** you better try to learn all you can.*

Use #2: Separate items in a series.
Example: *We are going waterskiing, swimming, and snorkeling.*

Use #3: Set off introductory phrases or clauses.
Example: *To raise enough money in time, Mary sold all of her personal belongings.*

Use #4: Set off one or more words that interrupt the flow of thought in a sentence.
Example: Justin, who lives down the street from me, is going to be at the party also.

Use #5: Separate two or more adjectives that modify the same noun, if you can substitute the word and for the comma.
Example: *She is a beautiful, intelligent girl.*

Use #6: Separate two clauses if a dependent marker is used to start the sentence.
Example: *If you want to get good grades, you need to do your homework.*

Use #7: Set off direct quotes.
Example: *Kevin said, "I'm fin to steal off you!"*

Use #8: Set off introductory words.
Example: *In conclusion, the 2016 Olympics should be held in Chicago.*

Use #9: Set off years in full dates, titles in names, and regions.
Example: *January 2nd, 1996, Bill Clinton, President of the U.S.A., paid a visit to Chicago, Illinois.*

Use #10: Set off names in direct address.
Example: *Would you please be quiet, Lupe?*

Comma Misuses: **Don't Use Commas Like this!**

1. Separating the subject and the predicate.
Example: *Getting to school, can be difficult.*

2. Separating a verb and its object.
Example: Timothy is reading, the newspaper.

3. Putting a comma in a compound subject or predicate with 2 items.
Example: Tim, and Steve went to the store, and ate hotdogs.

4. Use one comma to set off an interrupter:
Alice, the girl from my math class is going to the dance.