

**29.2**

# Commas That Separate Basic Elements (Compound Sentences, Items in a Series, Adjectives)

## • Practice 1

**Commas With Compound Sentences** Use a comma before the coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.

COMPOUND SENTENCES
Jose wanted to attend the game, but he decided to do his report instead. Either we will win tonight, or we will have to face a sad crowd afterward.

**Commas Between Items in a Series** Use commas to separate three or more words, phrases, or clauses in a series.

SERIES
Ellen bought new jeans, a plaid skirt, and a pair of gloves. They drove to the post office, parked the car, and unloaded the boxes.

**Commas Between Adjectives** Use commas to separate adjectives of equal rank. (Do not use commas to separate adjectives that must stay in a specific order.)

With Commas	Without Commas
A narrow, rough road led to the country market.	Many new books on sports are on display in the library.

**Exercise 1** **Using Commas Correctly.** Add commas where they are required. One sentence needs no commas.

**EXAMPLE:** During the night it rained but the day was brilliant.  
During the night it rained, but the day was brilliant.

- Mary Grace lives in a dark wooded area.
- The crash awoke Father and he jumped out of bed.
- Buy tomatoes cucumbers scallions and lettuce.
- An exhausted discouraged team limped into the locker room.
- Betty must have reached home safely or she would have phoned.
- I found many old stamps in Grandfather's collection.
- The rain has stopped but it is still very humid.
- An angry determined speaker addressed the mayor.
- Frank planned to read his speech but he lost his notes.
- I prepared a salad cooked a roast and baked some cookies.

**Exercise 2** **Understanding the Use of Commas.** The sentences below are correctly punctuated. Identify the use of commas by writing the words *compound*, *series*, or *adjectives*.

**EXAMPLE:** She stared at the horizon lined with old, withered trees. adjectives

- I will take the train, or I will drive to work. \_\_\_\_\_
- Steve bought an umbrella, boots, and a rain hat. \_\_\_\_\_
- A happy, smiling crowd greeted the contestants. \_\_\_\_\_
- You must go, but I will stay. \_\_\_\_\_
- She wanted to go swimming, get some sun, and just relax. \_\_\_\_\_