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| **CMOS Rule** | **CMOS Rule Name** | **Comma required** Y (Generally Yes)NR (Non-restrictive)P (set off pair)S (if the syntax requires itIP (Introductory Phrase)MP (middle of sentence)EP (end of sentence) | **Comma Not Required**Y (Generally Yes)R (Restrictive)IP (Introductory Phrase)MP (middle of sentence)EP (end of sentence) | **Exception(s)** |
| 6.17 | Comma in Pairs | Y, P |  | Commas in titles are considered independent of the surrounding text |
| 6.18 | Commas Relative to Parentheses & Brackets | S |  | A comma may appear inside a parentheses or brackets as part of an editorial interpolation |
| 6.19 | Serial Commas (Oxford Comma) | Y (Series), S (after series ends) |  | If a serial comma does not prevent ambiguity, reword the sentence; no commas are needed if the series is joined by all conjunctions. |
| 6.20 | Commas with “etc.” and “et al.” | Y (before), S (after) |  | If et. al follows a single item, no coma is required. |
| 6.21 | Omitting Serial Commas before Ampersands (&) |  | Y |  |
| 6.22 | Commas with Independent Clauses Joined by Coordinating Conjunctions | Y (before conj.) |  | If the commas are short and closely related, a comma isn’t necessary. |
| 6.23 | Commas with Compound Predicates | S (before *then*, but not *and then* ; series of three or more) | Y | A comma may be needed to prevent misreading. |
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| 6.24 | Commas with Introductory Dependent Clauses | Y |  |  |
| 6.25 | Commas with Dependent Clauses Following the Main Clause | NR | R |  |
| 6.26 | Commas with Intervening Dependent Clauses (Two Consecutive Conjunctions) |  | Y | May add a comma between a coordinating and subordinating conjunction for emphasis or clarity. |
| 6.27 | Commas with Relative Clauses – “That” vs. “Which” | NR (which) | R (that) | Also applies to other relative pronouns: who/whom/whose |
| 6.28 | Commas with Appositives | NR | R |  |
| 6.29 | Commas with Descriptive Phrases | NR | R |  |
| 6.30 | Commas with Participle Phrases | IP, MP(NR), EP(NR) | MP(R), EP(R) | Comma should not be used if the participle phrase modifies the subject by means of a linking verb, even if the sentence is inverted. |
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| 6.31 | Commas with Adverbial Phrases | MP, EP(NR) | IP, EP(R) | Commas are not used in inverted sentences; can use a comma for an introductory phrase if misreading is likely. |
| 6.32 | Commas with a Participial or Adverbial Phrase + a conjunction | Y |  |  |
| 6.33 | Commas with Introductory Phrases | Depends | Depends | Depends on type of phrase and length. |
| 6.34 | Commas with an introductory “Yes,” “No,” or the like | Y |  | Except in informal prose to dialogue |
| 6.35 | Commas with an Introductory “oh,” or “ah” | Y |  | It is followed by an exclamation mark, forms part of a phrase, no commas follow a vocative oh or o |
| 6.36 | Commas with Coordinate Adjectives | Y |  |  |
| 6.37 | Commas with Repeated Adjectives | Y |  |  |
| 6.38 | Commas with Dates | Month-day-year, PDay of the week w/ date, P |  |  |
| 6.39 | Commas with Addresses | Y (set off individual elements) |  |  |
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| 6.40 | Commas with Quotations | Y (dialogue tag) | Y (conj.) |  |
| 6.41 | Commas with Quoted or Italicized Titles and Expressions | NR  | R |  |
| 6.42 | Commas with Questions | Y (direct questions) | Y (indirect questions) |  |
| 6.44 | Commas with “Inc.”, “Ltd.”, and the Like | S(P) |  |  |
| 6.45 | Commas with “Not” Phrases |  | Y |  |
| 6.46 | Commas with “Not…But”, “Not Only…But Also” and the Like |  | Y | Can use commas to emphasize or clarify |
| 6.47 | Commas with “the more,” “the less,” and so on |  | Y | Not needed between short ones |
| 6.48 | Commas with Parenthetical Elements | Y |  | Only if a slight break is intended |
| 6.49 | Commas with “However,” “Indeed,” and the Like | Y (conjunctive adverb) |  | Adverb is essential to the meaning of the clause or the emphasis in on the adverb itself, commas are usually unnecessary |
| 6.50 | Commas with “Such as” and “Including” | NR | R |  |
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| 6.51 | Commas with “that is,” namely,” “for example,” and the like | Y |  |  |
| 6.52 | Commas with “too” and “either.” |  | Y (when used in the sense of “also”) | When it comes in the middle of the sentence, a comma can aid in comprehension |
| 6.53 | Commas with Direct Address | Y |  | Except in correspondence greeting, comma comes after greeting |
| 6.54 | Commas to indicate elision | Y |  | Can be omitted if the elliptical construction is clear without it |
| 6.55 | Commas between homonyms | Y |  |  |