

What is a comma?

- a punctuation mark, used especially as a mark of separation within the sentence – *Merriam-Webster*
- a punctuation mark (,) indicating a pause between parts of a sentence. It is also used to separate items in a list and to mark the place of thousands in a large numeral. – *Oxford English Dictionary*

What the experts say:

- experts say 90% of writers use commas correctly 75% of the time
- only 1% of writers use commas correctly 99% of the time

Why commas are important from *Painless Grammar* by Rebecca Elliot (page 83)

- The dog said my dad is scratching at the door and needs to go out for a walk.
- What does this sentence mean?

- The dog, said my dad, is scratching at the door and needs to go out for a walk.
- What does this sentence mean?

Notes about commas: