Commas are used to separate words and phrases into chunks of information that make sense to the reader. Incorrect use of commas can cause confusion or even a misreading of the information.

1. **Don’t use commas to separate two subjects doing the same thing.**
   
   She and her cat were thrown from the spinning ride. ✓
   
   Billy, and Buster wanted burgers for dinner. ×

2. **Don’t use commas to separate two actions of a subject.**
   
   Tootie drank the moonshine and passed out. ✓
   
   Elmer and Emerson walked to the grocery store, and bought Scooter Pies. ×

3. **Don’t use commas to separate the actor from the action.**
   
   Richard was happy to win the award. ✓
   
   The red bus, careened toward the crowd at the bus stop. ×
   
   Stuffed into Glen’s pocket, were his prized marbles. ×

4. **Don’t use commas to separate the verb from the rest of the action.**
   
   What Belle wanted to do was save the beast. ✓
   
   The most important thing to remember is, that I love you. ×

5. **Don’t use commas before the first or after the last item in a series.**
   
   We ate, steak, lobster, chicken, and candy bars for breakfast. ×
   
   Morgan, Pat, and John, ran for their cars at the news. ×

6. **Don’t separate two nouns in a compound object.**
   
   The Pinkertons feared that their quarry was long gone and that they’d never find him.
   
   Tension mounted when the hit man fingered the rifle, and the pistol. ×

7. **Don’t separate adjectives from the words they modify.**
   
   Michael loved his squishy teddy bear. ✓
   
   The bright, beautiful, star drew everyone’s attention when night fell. ×