Comma Uses

Use #1: Combining 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: Separating three or more items in a series.
Example: *We are going waterskiing, swimming, and snorkeling.*

Use #3: Setting off introductory phrases or clauses.
Example: *To raise enough money for the cause, Mary sold all of her personal belongings.*

Use #4: Setting 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 the Moon also.*

Use #5: Separating two or more adjectives that modify the same noun, if you can substitute the word *and* for the comma.
Example: *She was in love with the interesting, dangerous act of beekeeping.*

Use #6: Separating 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: Setting off direct quotes.
Example: *Kevin said, "I like turtles!"*

Use #8: Setting off introductory words.
Example: *First, we should eat tacos for lunch every day.*

Use #9: Setting 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: Setting off names in direct address.
Example: *Would you please be quiet, Lupe?*

Comma Misuses: Don't Use Commas Like this!

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

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

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

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