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 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 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.
Example: Alice, the girl from my math class is going to the dance.