C’mon with all the Commas Already!
In the past weeks, we’ve learned how to use commas when incorporating CCs and SCs. We also learned how to fix fragments by using commas to separate a DC from an IC. In the following slides, we’ll learn some general rules that you will need to memorize regarding how to use commas in other scenarios.
What’s the Difference???

Before *which*, always include a comma. Before *in which*, never include a comma.

Examples:

James is going to miss school today, which will definitely affect his grade.

Today is the day in which we will have the grammar exam.
A parenthetical element is a portion of a sentence that is included to add extra detail; however, if the phrase was removed, the sentence would still be complete. When parenthetical elements are in the middle of a sentence, they must be surrounded by commas.

Example:

The Founders Bridge, which spans the Connecticut River, is falling down.

***Notice that if the parenthetical element was removed then the sentence would read: The Founders Bridge is falling down. This is still an independent clause.
When using the terms *including* and *such as*, always include a comma before them.

**Examples:**

I bought too many sweets at the store, including a box of toblerone.

I bought three different flavors of ice cream, such as cookie dough, coffee, and rocky road.
And the Lists Go On...

- When listing more than two items, you need to include commas to separate EACH item.

Example:

I went to the grocery store to buy chips, ice cream, and guacamole.

The comma before the *and* is essential to connote that the ice cream and guacamole are two different items and not some new gross flavor of ice cream that has guacamole in it. *

*Wait, is that really gross? What if the ice cream was on the side of a quesadilla? Then, the guac would be essential. And why isn’t “guac” a new slang? Like: “That’s so guac!”*
When you have two descriptive words that correlate to a noun, you have to decide whether to separate the adjectives with a comma or not.

Examples:

The heavy, bulky box was in the way.

The exquisite custom houseboat was too expensive.

In the first example, each adjective is separately describing box. Heavy is describing the box on its own as well as bulky.

In the second example, custom is describing the houseboat, but exquisite is describing the custom houseboat. If the first adjective is describing the following adjective coupled with the noun then don’t use a comma.
Have a great time inputting commas and making your English instructor really happy that you’re now a professional comma inputer.*

*Inputer is not a word unless we all start using it as much as we started using guac. Isn’t that so guac???