

**1. Use commas with coordinators (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*) to join simple sentences together.**

e.g. The overall number of Christians in the United States is growing, but the percentage of Catholics is declining.

e.g. Recent changes to employment insurance target seasonal workers, so employees in the fishing and forestry sectors will be the hardest hit.

**2. Use commas with conjunctive adverbs (*e.g. in addition, however, therefore*) and semi-colons.**

e.g. Mikhail Baryshnikov trained as a ballet dancer in the U.S.S.R; however, he defected while on tour in Canada in 1974.

e.g. Canadians are exposed to fewer hours of sunlight in the winter; as a result, they suffer from low levels of vitamin D.

**3. Use commas after dependent clauses if they come first in a complex sentence.**

e.g. Since she released her first collection of poetry in 1961, Margaret Atwood has published over 50 books.

e.g. Whereas the hobbits represent agrarian life, the orcs represent an industrial society.

**4. Use commas to separate items in a list. (The last comma is optional.)**

e.g. Greek myth has inspired art, philosophy, and literature in the Western world.

e.g. The Canadian Wheat Board monitors grain prices, buys wheat and barley from farmers, and sells it to foreign markets.

**5. Use commas to separate clauses or phrases that provide extra information.**

e.g. William Lyon McKenzie King, the tenth prime minister of Canada, led the country during the First World War.

e.g. The university, which began as St. Thomas College, was originally located in Chatham, New Brunswick.

e.g. A devastating wildfire broke out in Rock Creek, British Columbia, last Monday.

**6. Use commas after introductory elements.**

e.g. During the late Cenozoic era, the Eltanin asteroid crashed into the Pacific Ocean.

e.g. Convinced that Juliet is dead, Romeo commits suicide by drinking poison.

**7. Use commas around words or phrases that interrupt a sentence.**

e.g. Many daily activities, like using a pencil or fork, require us to use fine motor skills.

e.g. Scientists discovered that, even in extremely cold temperatures, Emperor Penguins are able to retain body heat by huddling in groups.

## Practice Exercises

Put commas where needed.

1. The three Fates who spin the web of human destiny are Clotho Lachesis and Atropos.
2. The cost of a dairy quota for a single cow can range from \$25,000-\$42,500 so many farmers are prevented from entering the dairy industry due to the prohibitive cost.
3. After the Revolution in 1959 leader Fidel Castro began strengthening Cuban ties with the Soviet Union which was then engaged in a Cold War with the United States.
4. Nunavut the newest and largest province in Canada officially separated from the Northwest Territories in 1999.
5. According to the Demosthenian Hierarchy of Foreignness varelse are the truest kind of alien foreign enough that they are unable to communicate with humans.
6. Viola Desmond a civil rights pioneer from New Glasgow Nova Scotia is the first woman (other than the Queen) to be featured on Canadian currency.
7. Most Canadians suffering from Lyme disease are misdiagnosed or go undiagnosed unfortunately.
8. Even though it wasn't the largest city at the time Ottawa was chosen to be the capital because of its central location being positioned halfway between Toronto and Montreal.
9. Therefore the decline of the manufacturing industry is directly linked to the decline of middle class in the Midwest which is now referred to as the Rust Belt.

## Answer Key

1. The three Fates who spin the web of human destiny are Clotho, Lachesis, (optional) and Atropos. 2. The cost of a dairy quota for a single cow can range from \$25,000-\$42,500, so many farmers are prevented from entering the dairy industry due to the prohibitive cost. 3. After the Revolution in 1959, leader Fidel Castro began strengthening Cuban ties with the Soviet Union, which was then engaged in a Cold War with the United States. 4. Nunavut, the newest and largest province in Canada, officially separated from the Northwest Territories in 1999. 5. According to the Demosthenian Hierarchy of Foreignness, varelse are the truest kind of alien, foreign enough that they are unable to communicate with humans. 6. Viola Desmond, a civil rights pioneer from New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, is the first woman (other than the Queen) to be featured on Canadian currency. 7. Most Canadians suffering from Lyme disease are misdiagnosed or go undiagnosed, unfortunately. 8. Even though it wasn't the largest city at the time, Ottawa was chosen to be the capital because of its central location, being positioned halfway between Toronto and Montreal. 9. Therefore, the decline of the manufacturing industry is directly linked to the decline of middle class in the Midwest, which is now referred to as the Rust Belt.