

# Comma Rule #1

## The Comma in a Series

- Commas are used to **separate items** in a **series**.
- What is a series?
  - A series is a list of three or more items, the last two of which are joined by **AND**, **OR**, or **NOR**.

### series of single words

cups, jars, and plates  
 saw, screamed, and cried  
 running, jumping, diving, or swimming (4 items)

### series of phrase/clause (groups of words)

cups of sugar, jars of honey, and plates of spaghetti  
 saw the mugging, screamed loudly, and cried about it  
 Running around the track, jumping over hurdles, diving off  
 the board, or swimming across the pool.  
 whom you see, where you go, or what you do

## Oxford Comma

- The **Oxford Comma** is the **final comma** in a **list** of things:
  - Please bring me a pencil, eraser, and notebook.*
- I love my parents, Lady Gaga and Humpty Dumpty.*
- Without the **Oxford comma**, the sentence above could be **interpreted** as **stating** that you love your parents, and your parents are Lady Gaga and Humpty Dumpty. Here's the same sentence with the Oxford comma:
- I love my parents, Lady Gaga, and Humpty Dumpty.*

### With the Oxford Comma:

We invited the rhinoceri, Washington, and Lincoln.



### Without the Oxford Comma:

We invited the rhinoceri, Washington and Lincoln.



## WHY I STILL USE THE OXFORD COMMA

### WITH:

I had eggs, toast, and orange juice.



### WITHOUT:

I had eggs, toast and orange juice.



### Why I use the Oxford comma:

I was inspired by Marilyn Monroe, my father, and my boyfriend.



I was inspired by Marilyn Monroe, my father and my boyfriend.



Now it's your turn!!  
 Grab a white piece of paper and **make up your own example of why to use an Oxford comma**:  
 **With**  
 **Without**  
 **Must be colored and have visuals.**