

4 MAIN USES OF COMMAS

The Main Uses of Commas in a Sentence Are

Items in a series

apples, pears, **and**
peaches

To set off introductions

Despite **coffee**, I dislike
mornings.

To set-off extra description

He, **in my opinion**, is
the best candidate.

He ran fast, **leaping**
over the ground.

With coordinating conjunctions
(fanboys)

He likes **coffee**, **but** she
likes tea.

HOWEVER, simple conjunctions
don't need commas.

He likes peanut butter
and jelly.

Other uses of commas:

in dates, addresses, place
name, and long numbers:

The President lives at
1600 Pennsylvania **Ave.**,
Washington, D.C.

to separate two or more
adjectives:

The girl was fond of her
little, black kitten.

to set off a direct quotation:

He said, "**What** goes
around comes around."

FANBOYS

- **F**or: reason;
- **A**nd: addition;
- **N**or: negative alternatives;
- **B**ut: opposition, contrast;
- **O**r: affirmative alternatives;
- **Y**et: opposition, contrast;
- **S**o: result.