

GRAMMAR TIP #1

COMMA IN A PARALLEL STRUCTURE



When listing elements in a series, commas play a crucial role in separating and emphasizing each component. Each item of the list must be of the same grammar form (nouns, adjectives, verbs – with same tense form – clauses, or sentences).

Oxford Comma: add a comma before the last item – most preferred in APA.

Examples:

1. The course emphasizes reading, writing, and critical thinking.
2. The researcher collected the data, analyzed the results, and published the findings.
3. The students conducted the experiment, which included a section on methodology, data collection, findings, and discussion.
4. The audience inquired how the participants were recruited, when the study was conducted, and whether the study was ethical.

Note: If the items in the list are long clauses, use a semicolon instead of a comma.

**GOT
QUESTIONS?**

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