

## The First Rule of Commas:

### 1) **commas separate items in a series of 3 or more**

*New lockers, bins, racks, and shelves will be added to the boat.*

*We will hammer, nail, coax, and cajole until construction is complete.*

*The result will be a vessel that is logically designed, well organized, and visually attractive.*

Note: A comma IS necessary after the next-to-last item (the item before *and*) in any series or list.

Leaving out a last comma can cause confusion:

*The ark-building manual gives information on analyzing and solving construction problems, avoiding the hazards of welding and staying afloat into old age.*

How many topics are being discussed here actually?

The sentence is unclear because there are not enough commas placed in the sentence to separate the different ideas.

A comma should be placed after EVERY item in a list of three or more.