

## Editorial Graphics and Publishing Services

### Use a Comma to Set Off Contrasting Expressions

The comma is a great tool in helping to bring your reader's attention to the part of your sentence that is in stark opposition to the other part of your sentence. These opposite phrases or clauses are usually introduced by a conjunction—a small word or phrase that works to join two parts of a sentence (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so, rather than, and not*).

Use the comma to set off the contrasting part of your sentence and emphasize your point. For example (contrasting expression in italics):

- The committee changed its strategy, *not its goals*, for improving students' performance.
- Two paraeducators, *rather than one instructor*, were chosen to supervise the program.
- The seniors are willing to participate in activities, *but only on their terms*.

Learn more about the hard-working comma here [<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/comma-story-terisa-folaron/>].