

Read and Discover

- May dad says that eBay, the Internet auction site, represents a historic advance in commerce.
- My uncle has sold items on eBay, and my cousin bought a lamp there.
- I would like to buy and sell comic books, posters, and baseball cards.

In which sentence do commas separate three items in a series? _____

In which sentence do commas set off words that rename a noun? _____

In which sentence does a comma help separate the clauses in a compound sentence? _____

A **comma** has many uses. It is used to **separate items in a series** of three or more words, phrases, or clauses. The last comma in a series goes before the conjunction (*and, or*). A comma is also used to separate **pairs of similar adjectives** (*small, humble house*). A comma may be used to set off **appositives, participial phrases, and nonrestrictive adjective clauses**. A comma is also used before a conjunction when joining **independent clauses** in a compound sentence.

See Handbook Sections 8, 16, 24, 25a

Part 1

Add the missing comma to each sentence.

- Pierre Omidyar loves solving problems and he enjoys solving them in new ways.
- In 1995 the young energetic computer scientist had a plan.
- He wanted to use the Internet to help common ordinary individuals do business.
- He didn't want business on the Internet to be dominated by large powerful companies.
- He envisioned a Web site for buying and selling items and he believed users would treat each other fairly.
- He held another job but he spent weekends creating his auction Web site.
- The new site, which was an immediate success grew very rapidly.
- Omidyar knew he had created a thriving business so he quit his other job.
- People use ebay to buy and sell antiques clothes, electronics, and much more.
- After completing a transaction the buyer and the seller can post information about each other, which helps ensure honesty.
- Omidyar who has made billions from his idea, is looking for worthwhile ways to spend his money.
- Knowing that he has considerably more than he needs he wants to help others.
- He has donated \$100 million for microfinance the making of small loans to poor entrepreneurs.



Pierre Omidyar created the Web site that became the world's largest electronic marketplace.