

Commas

A comma is a breath.

Use a comma

1. After introductory words

During the summer of 1999, we visited Spain.
Unfortunately, we did not speak Spanish.

2. Before conjunctions

Clinton was reckless, **but** he was popular with the general public.
Cuba is facing a new crisis, **for** its supply of Venezuelan oil has been cut

3. After dependent clauses

Although I was sick, I went to my classes.
Because it was raining, the game was called off.

4. To set off extra information

Jeb Bush, who is the president's brother, is the governor of Florida.
Jeb does not have presidential ambitions, apparently.
In any case, that is what people are saying, although this may change.

Practice

Although many people enjoy coffee they find that it can make them nervous and irritable if they drink too much of it. Caffeine which is the primary active ingredient in coffee can become addictive. Many people find that when they try to quit drinking coffee they often develop headaches and other symptoms of withdrawal. Furthermore it has been found that caffeine may contribute to breast disease in women under forty. One must admit however that there is nothing like a good

cup of coffee first thing in the morning. Personally I cannot imagine life without it.