Name: _____

Using Commas

When should I use commas?

1. Use a comma before a conjunction (and,but, or, yet, so) to join two independent clauses.
　　　example: I went to the game, but my team lost.

2. Use a comma after an introductory element.
　　example: After a short snooze, Bob got right back to work.

3. Use commas to separate items in a series of three or more things.
　　example: I bought sugar, pasta, and juice.

4. Use commas to separate adjectives.
　　example: A thin, handsome man approached me after work.

Directions: Read each sentence. Put commas in the correct places in each sentence.

1.　　Even though the paint was still wet I couldn't resist touching it.

2.　　After the fire burned out I went inside the house.

3.　　In English class we read *Old Man and the Sea Dracula* and *Beowulf*.

4.　　I watched television took the dog for a walk and drove to the store to get milk.

5.　　William Shakespeare a famous playwright wrote Macbeth and Hamlet.

6.　　The three pound bass which was the biggest fish I ever caught tasted delicious.

7.　　While the turkey was cooking I prepared mashed potatoes.

8.　　My best friend John just bought a new lawn mower.

9.　　In the basement mice hide between the boxes.

10.　　After hiking in the woods for three hours I sat down to have a drink of water.

11.　　The big gray dog wouldn't stop barking last night.

12.　　Jane I would like you to meet my mother and father.

13.　　I need to go to the hardware store to get nails paint and light bulbs.

14.　　If you liked *Harry Potter* you'll love *Lord of the Rings*.

15.　　I've had enough of your silly wild and inappropriate behavior.

Using Commas - ANSWER KEY

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11.   After the fire burned out**,** I went inside the house.

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16.   While the turkey was cooking**,** I prepared mashed potatoes.

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