

## Commas!!!! BIG PROBLEM! 6 magic rules

1) Put a comma before a change of subject (podmět)

E.g. Bob was grumpy, and it made life miserable for everyone.

Bob ate fish, and his doggy ate dog food.

2) NEVER put a comma before 'that', 'if' or 'when' even if there is a change of subject!

I think, that English punctuation is stupid.

☹

I do not know, if Bob is home. ☹

I got home, when Bob was having a fit. ☹

3) Use a comma before BUT, SINCE and AS when they are conjunctions (spojky).

E.G. I was tired, but I continued working nonetheless. ALE Bob ate all the bananas but one.

I was tired, since/as I had been thinking in Czech all day. ALE: I have been here since noon.

4) Put commas around non-defining clauses and participle clauses (přechodníky), and

**after the hypothesis of a conditional sentence.**

**E.G. Bob, who is my best friend, is coming to visit me.**

**(Defining Clause: The man that I met at the supermarket is coming to visit me.)**

**Bob's sisters, seeing that he was an idiot, decided to adopt another brother.**

**If I could, I would switch to a logical language like German.**

**5) Put commas around (or after) editorial and organisational comments, and time and place phrases. E.G. Unfortunately, Bob did not enjoy the trip.**

**The trip, in my opinion, was a waste of time.**

**As far as I know, it will not snow today.**

**In the early part of 2009, I was working for a publisher. In places where it snows, people wear funny hats.**

## **6) lists**

### **A, B, C(,) and D**

Why use the Oxford Comma?

Highlights of his global tour include encounters with Nelson Mandela, an 800-year-old demigod and a dildo collector.

(the Times of London writing about Peter Ustinov)