1. **Commas after introductory elements**
   CLUE: Look for sentences that begin with connection words or phrases (on, at, in, after, before, by, despite, since, although, however, while, if, since, unfortunately).
   **Incorrect:** However Bob was right when he said carrots were good.
   **Correct:** However, Bob was right when he said carrots were good.
   **Incorrect:** Unfortunately Bob was wrong when he said apples were good.
   **Correct:** Unfortunately, Bob was wrong when he said apples were good.
   **Incorrect:** Despite what Bob said I still think tomatoes are gross.
   **Correct:** Despite what Bob said, I still think tomatoes are gross.

2. **Commas to set off parenthetical or transitional expressions**
   CLUE: Look for words or phrases such as however, furthermore, for example, moreover, on the other hand, or incidentally in the middle of sentences.
   **Incorrect:** My mother on the other hand loves tomatoes.
   **Correct:** My mother, on the other hand, loves tomatoes.
   **Incorrect:** Shark attacks for example rarely occur.
   **Correct:** Shark attacks, for example, rarely occur.

3. **Commas to separate independent clauses (complete thoughts) when they are joined by the following conjunctions:** and, or, but, so, yet, nor, or for
   **Incorrect:** I finished studying for the test so I went to bed.
   **Correct:** I finished studying for the test, so I went to bed.
   **Incorrect:** He went to school but he was not happy about it.
   **Correct:** He went to school, but he was not happy about it.
   **Incorrect:** I went to London and I went to Paris.
   **Correct:** I went to London, and I went to Paris.

4. **Commas to separate nonessential words or phrases from the rest of a sentence**
   CLUE: Often, these words or phrases provide extra information about the subject.
   **Incorrect:** My son a five-year-old male is watching television.
   **Correct:** My son, a five-year-old male, is watching television.
   **Incorrect:** The Smurfs who are blue played golf yesterday.
   **Correct:** The Smurfs, who are blue, played golf yesterday.
   **Incorrect:** Ms. Smith my teacher loves poetry.
   **Correct:** Ms. Smith, my teacher, loves poetry.

5. **Commas to set off adjective and adverb clauses**
   CLUE: Look for words like which or while in the middle of sentences.
   **Incorrect:** I went to the Studio yesterday which is located inside of the library.
   **Correct:** I went to the Studio yesterday, which is located inside of the library.
   **Incorrect:** I prefer blue while she prefers green.
   **Correct:** I prefer blue, while she prefers green.