

## My Weird School Comma Exercises (Answer Key)

Using the “Comma Rules” handout, give the reason for the commas used in each of the following sentences.

1. Dan Gutman was born on **October 19, 1955**.  
1. **Items in dates**
2. He went to college in **New Brunswick, New Jersey**.  
2. **Items in addresses**
3. His books, **the My Weird School series** and others, are popular with young kids.  
3. **Appositive phrase**
4. Nina Wallace, **his wife**, is an illustrator.  
4. **Appositive phrase**
5. **When he was a young boy**, Dan wanted to write funny stories.  
5. **Introductory adverb clause**
6. His first job, **however**, was working for a computer magazine.  
6. **Parenthetical expression**
7. He has also written many articles for magazines such as **Newsweek, Science Digest, and Psychology Today**.  
7. **Items in a series**
8. **Illustrated by Jim Paillot**, *My Weird School* books feature a young boy named A. J.  
8. **Intro participial phrase**
9. A. J. is the main character, **and** his friends are Ryan and Michael.  
9. **2 independent clauses with a conjunction**
10. A. J., **who doesn't like school**, thinks Miss Daisy is crazy!  
10. **Nonessential adj. clause**
11. She's not really crazy, **but** he thinks she is.  
11. **2 ind clauses w/a conj**
12. **Pretending not to know the answers**, Miss Daisy tricks the kids into learning math.  
12. **Intro participial phrase**
13. **Because Mr. Klutz calls A. J. to the office**, he thinks he is in trouble.  
13. **Intro adverb clause**
14. **As principal of the school**, Mr. Klutz does weird things like kissing a pig and bungee jumping from the flag pole.  
14. **2 intro prep phrases**
15. Mrs. Roopy, **the librarian**, does weird things to get students to read.  
15. **Appositive phrase**
16. She pretends to be **George Washington, Johnny Appleseed, Humpty Dumpty, Little Bo Peep, and many other characters from books**.  
16. **Items in a series**
17. Mrs. Hannah loves art, **but** she also loves trash!  
17. **2 ind. clauses w/a conj.**
18. Did you know, **boys and girls**, that Dan Gutman also writes books about baseball?  
18. **Direct address**
19. **Yes**, his *Baseball Card Adventure* books are about a time-traveling boy who meets people like Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson.  
19. **Introductory word**
20. Dan Gutman is a **funny, cool** writer!  
20. **2 adjectives before a noun**