

Quotations

Commas are used to set off the quote from the signal words or phrases and the introduction of the quote. Commas following the quotation—if it is a part of the quotation—go inside the quotation marks.

1. The police officer said, “Get out of the car!”
2. “Discourses are mastered through acquisition,” Gee says, “not learning.”
3. The student asked, “Where are the books?”

If you use a quote or partial quote and do not introduce the quote or partial quote, you do not use a comma.

1. The student failed because she had “club obligations.”
2. Teachers who say “not my problem” are not committed.