Main Uses of the Comma

*To separate main clauses linked by a coordinating conjunction:

I completed my initial circuit design, but I have yet to test it in the lab.

*To set off most introductory elements:

Unfortunately, lab testing indicated that a complete re-design was necessary.

*To set off nonrestrictive elements:

My lab TA, who is knowledgeable and willing to help students, showed me the problems with my circuit.

*To separate items in a series:

I needed to think about component tolerances, transistor biasing, and impedance matching of my output.

*To separate two or more adjectives:

After re-design, I had a functional, robust, and simple circuit design.

*To set up quotations according to standard practice:

Upon examining my circuit, Professor Woo exclaimed, “This circuit is highly innovative and very useful.”

*To punctuate dates and addresses:

The most rewarding day of my life was April 9, 1998 because IEEE Communications Magazine published my circuit design.