Using Commas

When should I use commas?

1. Use a comma before a conjunction (and, but, or, yet, so) to join two independent clauses.
   example: I went to the game, but my team lost.

2. Use a comma after an introductory element.
   example: After a short snooze, Bob got right back to work.

3. Use commas to separate items in a series of three or more things.
   example: I bought sugar, pasta, and juice.

4. Use commas to separate adjectives.
   example: A thin, handsome man approached me after work.

Read each sentence. Put commas in the correct places in each sentence.

1. Even though the paint was still wet I couldn’t resist touching it.

2. After the fire burned out I went inside the house.

3. In English class we read *Old Man and the Sea*, *Dracula*, and *Beowulf*.

4. I watched television, took the dog for a walk, and drove to the store to get milk.

10. After hiking in the woods for three hours I sat down to have a drink of water.

11. The big gray dog wouldn’t stop barking last night.

12. Jane, I would like you to meet my mother and father.

13. I need to go to the hardware store to get nails, paint, and light bulbs.

14. If you liked *Harry Potter*, you’ll love *Lord of the Rings*.

15. I’ve had enough of your silly wild and inappropriate behavior.

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ANSWER KEY

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