Using Commas to Clarify Meaning

Commas can be used to ensure that sentences are clear in their intention and meaning as one sentence without comma/s or with comma/s in a different position can have very different meanings.

Can you think how commas could change the meaning of this sentence?

Josephine was a pretty tall girl.

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Here the absence of a comma invites us to read pretty tall as an adjectival phrase so we only find out that Josephine is relatively tall.

Josephine was a pretty, tall girl.

Here the comma separates two adjectives describing Josephine so we know she is pretty and tall.

It is well known that commas can also save lives:

Hurry up and shoot, Grandpa!

Without a comma in this sentence it becomes...

Hurry up and shoot Grandpa!