

Sentence Builders

Warm up your comma eye, then build wild sentences with a partner.

GRADE 5 • L.5.2b

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.2b "Use a comma to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence."

NAME _____

DATE _____

WARM-UP • YES OR NO COMMA? Solo, before the game

The rule of the game: when a sentence begins with an introductory word, phrase, or clause, place a comma between that opener and the main sentence. *After the drill, the class lined up.*

Circle **YES** if the sentence starts with an introductory element and needs a comma, then add the comma right on the sentence. Circle **NO** if it needs no comma.

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Suddenly the classroom lights flickered. | <input type="button" value="YES"/> | <input type="button" value="NO"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2. The science team built a bridge from straws. | <input type="button" value="YES"/> | <input type="button" value="NO"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3. At the end of recess Maya found a shiny button. | <input type="button" value="YES"/> | <input type="button" value="NO"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4. Our principal wore a purple tie today. | <input type="button" value="YES"/> | <input type="button" value="NO"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5. The class cheered for the visiting author. | <input type="button" value="YES"/> | <input type="button" value="NO"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. When the timer rang everyone packed up. | <input type="button" value="YES"/> | <input type="button" value="NO"/> |

Check your answers with a partner. When you both agree on all six, you have earned your builder's license. Turn the page and play.

HOW TO PLAY 2 players

1. Cut apart the cards on page 3. Shuffle **OPENER** cards and **ACTION** cards into two face-down piles.
2. On your turn, flip one card from each pile.
3. Say the whole sentence out loud. Make the comma pause easy to hear.
4. Write the sentence on your score sheet with the comma in the right place. Capitalize the first word and end with a period.
5. Your partner checks the comma and marks the box. Then it is your partner's turn.

SAMPLE ROUND

Opener: *Suddenly* + Action: *my backpack made a mysterious beep*

Suddenly, my backpack made a mysterious beep.

SCORE SHEET 4 rounds each

RD	YOUR SENTENCE, WITH THE COMMA PLACED CORRECTLY	PARTNER CHECK
1		☐
2		☐
3		☐
4		☐

ROUND 5 • THE SWITCHEROO

Pick your favorite sentence from above. Rewrite it with the opener moved to the **end** of the sentence. Read both versions aloud. What happened to the comma, and why?

OPENER	OPENER	OPENER	OPENER
Suddenly	Yesterday	Deep inside the school vents	During the talent show
OPENER	OPENER	OPENER	OPENER
Balancing a stack of library books	Because the llama refused to move	While the class waited for lunch	After the robot won the race
ACTION	ACTION	ACTION	ACTION
the principal juggled three staplers	a penguin delivered the homework	the chess club cheered from the hallway	our teacher discovered a tiny dragon
ACTION	ACTION	ACTION	ACTION
the cafeteria workers served purple pancakes	the school mascot rode a skateboard	my backpack made a mysterious beep	the librarian wore a superhero cape

Openers never come with their comma. Adding it is the whole game.

WARM-UP • YES OR NO COMMA?

1. **YES** Suddenly, the classroom lights flickered.
2. **NO** The science team built a bridge from straws.
3. **YES** At the end of recess, Maya found a shiny button.
4. **NO** Our principal wore a purple tie today.
5. **NO** The class cheered for the visiting author.
6. **YES** When the timer rang, everyone packed up.

THE GAME • WHAT TO CHECK

An introductory word, phrase, or dependent clause at the beginning of a sentence is followed by a comma. Check that each score-sheet sentence begins with the opener, has a comma after the full opener, and ends with a period. In the challenge round, students see that moving the opener to the end removes the need for the introductory comma.

SAMPLE ROUNDS

- Suddenly, my backpack made a mysterious beep.
- Deep inside the school vents, the chess club cheered from the hallway.
- After the robot won the race, the principal juggled three staplers.

Any opener works with any action card, so expect silly sentences. The comma placement is what gets scored, not the logic of the sentence.

ROUND 5 • THE SWITCHEROO

Before: Because the llama refused to move, the principal juggled three staplers.

After: The principal juggled three staplers because the llama refused to move.

When the opener moves to the end, it is no longer introductory, so the comma is dropped.