

Comma Detectives

Find the sentences with a comma after the opening words.

3.L.GC.1.40 "Mechanics: Use commas after introductory phrases or clauses. (Introduce)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMMA IS CORRECT

The sentence has a comma after an opening phrase or clause.

During recess, the squirrels chased each other.

ADD A COMMA

The sentence starts with an opening phrase or clause, but it needs a comma after it.

If the paint dries we can hang it.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or ADD COMMA for each sentence, then choose two items and explain how the commas helped you sort them.

1. 1. In the morning, we fed the rabbits.

CORRECT

ADD COMMA

2. 2. Before the game we tied our shoes.

CORRECT

ADD COMMA

3. 3. After dinner I read a comic.

CORRECT

ADD COMMA

4. 4. When the bell rang, the class lined up.

CORRECT

ADD COMMA

5. 5. On Saturday, Dad fixed the bike.

CORRECT

ADD COMMA

6. 6. Because it was windy we flew a kite.

CORRECT

ADD COMMA

7. 7. At the library, Mia chose a mystery.

CORRECT

ADD COMMA

8. 8. After the show, we clapped loudly.

CORRECT

ADD COMMA

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new sentence for CORRECT and one new sentence for ADD COMMA.

CORRECT _____

ADD COMMA _____

CHALLENGE

Fix this sentence by adding a comma, then write a new ending: Before the parade started we found our seats.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. In the morning, we fed the rabbits.	CORRECT	A comma correctly follows the introductory phrase "In the morning."
2	2. Before the game we tied our shoes.	ADD COMMA	The introductory phrase "Before the game" needs a comma after it.
3	3. After dinner I read a comic.	ADD COMMA	The introductory phrase "After dinner" needs a comma after it.
4	4. When the bell rang, the class lined up.	CORRECT	A comma correctly follows the introductory clause "When the bell rang."
5	5. On Saturday, Dad fixed the bike.	CORRECT	A comma correctly follows the introductory phrase "On Saturday."
6	6. Because it was windy we flew a kite.	ADD COMMA	The introductory clause "Because it was windy" needs a comma after it.
7	7. At the library, Mia chose a mystery.	CORRECT	A comma correctly follows the introductory phrase "At the library."
8	8. After the show, we clapped loudly.	CORRECT	A comma correctly follows the introductory phrase "After the show."

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CORRECT:** Under the bridge, frogs croaked at night.
- **ADD COMMA:** While the cookies baked we set the table.

Challenge: Before the parade started, we found our seats near the fountain.

Items 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8 are CORRECT. Items 2, 3, and 6 need a comma after the introductory phrase or clause. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the opening words and tell whether a comma is present or missing.