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.	In the morning, we fed the rabbits.	CORRECT	ADD COMMA
2.	Before the game we tied our shoes.	CORRECT	ADD COMMA
3.	After dinner I read a comic.	CORRECT	ADD COMMA
4.	When the bell rang, the class lined up.	CORRECT	ADD COMMA
5.	On Saturday, Dad fixed the bike.	CORRECT	ADD COMMA
6.	Because it was windy we flew a kite.	CORRECT	ADD COMMA
7.	At the library, Mia chose a mystery.	CORRECT	ADD COMMA
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.

ANSWER KEY

Comma Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.L.GC.1.40

PART 1 · SORT

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

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