

Comma Clue Sort

Look for commas after opening words.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMMA USED

The sentence begins with an introductory phrase or clause. A comma comes after the opening words.

Near dusk, fireflies glimmered over marshes.

COMMA MISSING

The sentence begins with introductory words, but it needs a comma after them. Add the missing comma.

Throughout winter the lighthouse beacon flashed.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, read each sentence and circle CORRECT or REVISE, then for Part 2, choose two items and explain whether each one has a comma after its introductory words.

1. Before dinner, Maya finished her puzzle.

CORRECT

REVISE

2. In the muddy garden the worms wiggled.

CORRECT

REVISE

3. When the lights flickered, we stayed calm.

CORRECT

REVISE

4. After practice Jordan filled a water bottle.

CORRECT

REVISE

5. Across the icy field, a fox trotted quietly.

CORRECT

REVISE

6. Because the bus was late I read my comic.

CORRECT

REVISE

7. At the library, Dad borrowed a cookbook.

CORRECT

REVISE

8. While the soup cooled, the children set bowls.

CORRECT

REVISE

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 CORRECT sentence with a comma after introductory words and one REVISE sentence that needs a comma after introductory words.

CORRECT _____

REVISE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that begins with an introductory clause, add the comma, and underline the introductory clause.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Before dinner, Maya finished her puzzle.	CORRECT	The comma correctly follows the introductory phrase, "Before dinner."
2	In the muddy garden the worms wiggled.	REVISE	A comma is needed after the introductory phrase, "In the muddy garden."
3	When the lights flickered, we stayed calm.	CORRECT	The comma correctly follows the introductory clause, "When the lights flickered."
4	After practice Jordan filled a water bottle.	REVISE	A comma is needed after the introductory phrase, "After practice."
5	Across the icy field, a fox trotted quietly.	CORRECT	The comma correctly follows the introductory phrase, "Across the icy field."
6	Because the bus was late I read my comic.	REVISE	A comma is needed after the introductory clause, "Because the bus was late."
7	At the library, Dad borrowed a cookbook.	CORRECT	The comma correctly follows the introductory phrase, "At the library."
8	While the soup cooled, the children set bowls.	CORRECT	The comma correctly follows the introductory clause, "While the soup cooled."

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 porch, two kittens slept.
- **REVISE:** Whenever rain begins I close the skylight.

Challenge: <u>When the snow stopped</u>, our neighbors cleared the path.

Items 1, 3, 5, 7, and 8 are CORRECT. Items 2, 4, and 6 are REVISE. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the opening phrase or clause and tell whether a comma follows it.