# 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. USED MISSING

**2.** In the muddy garden the worms wiggled. USED MISSING

**3.** When the lights flickered, we stayed calm. USED MISSING

**4.** After practice Jordan filled a water bottle. USED MISSING

**5.** Across the icy field, a fox trotted quietly. USED MISSING

**6.** Because the bus was late I read my comic. USED MISSING

**7.** At the library, Dad borrowed a cookbook. USED MISSING

**8.** While the soup cooled, the children set bowls. USED MISSING

## 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.

**USED** _____

**MISSING** _____

**CHALLENGE**

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

**ANSWER KEY**

# Comma Clue Sort

**GRADE 4 · 4.L.GC.1.40**

## PART 1 · SORT

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

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

**Challenge:** When the snow stopped, our neighbors cleared the path.

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