Comma Check

Sort opening clauses, explain two choices, and write your own.

L.5.2 "When writing: Use punctuation to separate items in a series. Use a comma to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence. Use a comma to set off the words yes and no..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMMA READY

An opening clause that cannot stand alone needs a comma before the rest of the sentence. In this category, the comma is there.

Although wind howled, lanterns burned brightly.

COMMA NEEDED

An opening clause that cannot stand alone needs a comma before the rest of the sentence. In this category, the comma is missing.

Because hinges squeaked mice fled.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle READY or NEEDED for each sentence; then choose two items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.

1.	1. After the rain stopped, puddles covered the playground.	READY NEEDED
2.	2. If Maya finishes her sketch she can join the art club.	READY NEEDED
3.	3. While the soup simmered, Dad sliced the carrots.	READY NEEDED
4.	4. Before the library closed, Nina returned her books.	READY NEEDED
5.	5. Unless the trail dries out we will take the paved path.	READY NEEDED
6.	6. Whenever my phone buzzes I check the screen.	READY NEEDED
7.	7. Since the bus arrived early, we had time to read.	READY NEEDED
8.	8. As the moon rose, shadows stretched across the field.	READY NEEDED

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 two new sentences that begin with opening clauses: one READY sentence with the comma in place and one NEEDED sentence without it, and label each sentence.

READY _____

NEEDED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a NEEDED sentence from Part 1, add its missing comma, and expand its main clause into a list of three actions with commas between them.

ANSWER KEY # Comma Check

GRADE 5 · L.5.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. After the rain stopped, puddles covered the playground.	**READY**	A comma separates the opening clause from the rest of the sentence.
2	2. If Maya finishes her sketch she can join the art club.	**NEEDED**	A comma is needed after sketch.
3	3. While the soup simmered, Dad sliced the carrots.	**READY**	A comma separates the opening clause from the rest of the sentence.
4	4. Before the library closed, Nina returned her books.	**READY**	A comma separates the opening clause from the rest of the sentence.
5	5. Unless the trail dries out we will take the paved path.	**NEEDED**	A comma is needed after out.
6	6. Whenever my phone buzzes I check the screen.	**NEEDED**	A comma is needed after buzzes.
7	7. Since the bus arrived early, we had time to read.	**READY**	A comma separates the opening clause from the rest of the sentence.
8	8. As the moon rose, shadows stretched across the field.	**READY**	A comma separates the opening clause from the rest of the sentence.

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)

- **READY**: Although the oven beeped, the cookies stayed inside.
- **NEEDED**: If the garden hose leaks we will use a watering can.

Challenge: If Maya finishes her sketch, she can join the art club, visit the gallery, and paint a mural.

Every item begins with a clause that needs a comma after it; items 2, 5, and 6 are missing that comma. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the opening clause and point to the comma or where it belongs.