Comma Clues

What job is each comma doing?

5.W.7.b "Punctuation – Applying correct usage of apostrophes and quotation marks in writing. Using a comma for appositives, to set off the words yes and no, to set off a tag question from the rest of the sentence, and to indicate direct address."

NAME _____ DATE _____

DIRECT ADDRESS

When you speak to someone by name, use a comma to set off that name.

Zoe, carry these boxes inside.

APPOSITIVE

An appositive gives extra information about a noun. Use commas to set it off.

Saturn, a ringed planet, circles the sun.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1 SORT: For each numbered sentence, circle ADDRESS or RENAME; Part 2 PROVE IT: Pick one item from each category and explain how you knew.

1.	Nora, please pass the glue.	ADDRESS	RENAME
2.	Could you close the gate, Ben?	ADDRESS	RENAME
3.	My aunt, a pilot, flew over the bay.	ADDRESS	RENAME
4.	I found the map, Captain Lee.	ADDRESS	RENAME
5.	The creek, a narrow stream, runs past our school.	ADDRESS	RENAME
6.	Mr. Chen, our librarian, ordered new books.	ADDRESS	RENAME
7.	My dog, a beagle, chased a leaf.	ADDRESS	RENAME
8.	Ravi, did you see the comet?	ADDRESS	RENAME

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick one item from each category and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new sentence with a comma for direct address and one with commas around an appositive.

ADDRESS

RENAME

CHALLENGE

Write a question to someone that includes both a direct address and an appositive; use commas to set off each one.

ANSWER KEY

Comma Clues

GRADE 5 · 5.W.7.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Nora, please pass the glue.	**ADDRESS**	Nora is the person being spoken to.
2	Could you close the gate, Ben?	**ADDRESS**	Ben is the person being spoken to.
3	My aunt, a pilot, flew over the bay.	**RENAME**	A pilot gives extra information about my aunt.
4	I found the map, Captain Lee.	**ADDRESS**	Captain Lee is the person being spoken to.
5	The creek, a narrow stream, runs past our school.	**RENAME**	A narrow stream gives extra information about the creek.
6	Mr. Chen, our librarian, ordered new books.	**RENAME**	Our librarian gives extra information about Mr. Chen.
7	My dog, a beagle, chased a leaf.	**RENAME**	A beagle gives extra information about my dog.
8	Ravi, did you see the comet?	**ADDRESS**	Ravi is the person being spoken to.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick one item from each category and explain how you knew.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ADDRESS**: Owen, save me a seat.
- **RENAME**: The oak, a tall tree, shades our porch.

Challenge: Lena, my cousin, can you carry the basket?

For Part 2, look for an explanation that identifies someone being spoken to in an ADDRESS item and extra information about a noun in a RENAME item. In the challenge sample, Lena is the direct address and my cousin is the appositive.