Comma Clues

Sort sentences by what their commas do.

6.5.W.7 "Students will use commas to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence and to indicate direct address (e.g., Where are you, Sam?)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPENING ELEMENT

An opening element comes before the main part of a sentence. A comma separates the two parts.

During winter, icy branches cracked.

DIRECT ADDRESS

Direct address names the person being spoken to. A comma sets that name apart from the rest of the sentence.

Maya, please return my paintbrush.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle OPENING or ADDRESS, then choose two items and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1.	Before the movie started, the audience found their seats.	OPENING	ADDRESS
2.	Could you check this answer, Eli?	OPENING	ADDRESS
3.	Tessa, bring the soccer ball inside.	OPENING	ADDRESS
4.	Across the busy street, a bakery opened.	OPENING	ADDRESS
5.	When the rain stopped, our team went outside.	OPENING	ADDRESS
6.	I saved you a seat, Jordan.	OPENING	ADDRESS
7.	At the edge of the pond, a turtle rested.	OPENING	ADDRESS
8.	By noon, the hikers reached the trailhead.	OPENING	ADDRESS

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 with a comma after an opening element and one new sentence with a comma setting off the name of someone you are speaking to.

OPENING _____

ADDRESS _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses both an opening element and direct address, with commas in the right places.

ANSWER KEY

Comma Clues

GRADE 6 · 6.5.W.7

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Before the movie started, the audience found their seats.	**OPENING**	The comma separates an opening time clause from the main clause.
2	Could you check this answer, Eli?	**ADDRESS**	Eli is the person being spoken to.
3	Tessa, bring the soccer ball inside.	**ADDRESS**	Tessa is the person being spoken to.
4	Across the busy street, a bakery opened.	**OPENING**	The comma separates an opening place phrase from the main clause.
5	When the rain stopped, our team went outside.	**OPENING**	The comma separates an opening time clause from the main clause.
6	I saved you a seat, Jordan.	**ADDRESS**	Jordan is the person being spoken to.
7	At the edge of the pond, a turtle rested.	**OPENING**	The comma separates an opening place phrase from the main clause.
8	By noon, the hikers reached the trailhead.	**OPENING**	The comma separates an opening time phrase from the main clause.

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)

- **OPENING**: Under the old bridge, tiny fish swam.
- **ADDRESS**: Leo, put your coat on the hook.

Challenge: Before practice, Avery, fill your water bottle.

Accept explanations that identify an opening phrase or clause before the main sentence, or a name used to speak to someone. In the challenge sentence, look for a comma after the opening element and commas setting off the name.