

Lesson 24

# Commas With Introductory Words

### STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- Identify introductory words, phrases, and clauses.
- Use a comma to set off an introductory element in a sentence.

### Writing Tip

To decide whether you need a comma after an introductory word, phrase, or clause, cover up the introductory part of the sentence. Read the rest of the sentence aloud. If it can stand alone and make sense, use a comma after the introductory part.

## Teach/Model

Explain that commas are used to set off, or separate, parts of sentences to make sure that the idea is clear.

- Explain that introductory words come at the beginning of a sentence. They give information, but they are not essential. Without them, you still have a complete sentence. For example: *In 1776, the United States became independent.* The introductory words add the information that tells *when*.
- Explain that introductory words, phrases, and clauses cannot stand alone. For example: *Because they won the tickets, the boys went to the movie.* Explain that *Because they won the tickets* is not a complete thought; it is added to tell *why*.
- Tell students that introductory words, phrases, and clauses are usually set off from the rest of the sentence with a comma. However, when these words come at the *end* of a sentence, they are usually not set off with a comma.
- Write these examples on the board. Use the modeling to guide students to identify introductory words, phrases, and clauses that should be set off by commas.

Example	Model/Think Aloud
<p><b>Introductory Word</b> Unfortunately, the store was not open.</p>	<p><i>The complete idea is</i> The store was not open. <i>Unfortunately is an introductory word. It needs to be set off with a comma.</i></p>
<p><b>Introductory Phrase</b> At six o'clock in the morning, the store is not open.</p>	<p><i>The complete idea is</i> The store is not open. <i>At six o'clock in the morning is a phrase telling when. The phrase is at the beginning of the sentence, so it must be set off with a comma.</i></p>
<p><b>Introductory Clause</b> Although we have waited for fifteen minutes, the store is still not open.</p>	<p><i>The complete idea is</i> The store is still not open. <i>Although we have waited for fifteen minutes is a clause. It comes at the beginning of the sentence, so it is set off with a comma.</i></p>

## Guided Practice/Apply

Write the following sentences on the board. Guide students to identify where commas should be used to set off introductory words, phrases, or clauses.

1. Yes we are leaving in an hour. (*comma after Yes; introductory word*)
2. If you are late we will leave without you. (*comma after late; introductory clause*)
3. To get there on time we must leave now. (*comma after time; introductory phrase*)
4. Whatever you forgot you don't need! (*comma after forgot; introductory clause*)

Assign **Practice, page 201**. Have students check their recent writing to be sure they have used commas to set off introductory elements.

### Resource Links

2 RDI Book 2: p. 200

**SAM Keyword:** Intro Commas



**Lesson 24**

# Commas With Introductory Words

**Introductory words, phrases, or clauses** come at the beginning of a sentence. Use a comma after introductory words, phrases, or clauses to set them off from the rest of the sentence.

Rewrite each sentence on the line. Use a comma after the introductory words.

1. On Monday our class began a writing project.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. First each student needed to pick a topic.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Next the students had to research their topics.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. By doing a search on the Internet Alexi found good information.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. After they gathered their facts the students started writing.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. At the end of the week the papers are due.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Although it is hard work Alexi is learning a lot from the project.

\_\_\_\_\_

Write two sentences. Use an introductory word, phrase, or clause in each sentence. Use correct punctuation.

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<b>Resource Links</b>
<b>2</b> RDI Book 2: p. 201
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Use with page 200.