



Answers to Exercises: Commas after Introductions

A. If the following sentences are correctly punctuated with introductory commas, mark a C on the line to the left of the sentence. If there is an error, put an X on the line and circle the error. Do you know why each sentence is correct or incorrect?

- X 1. As the boat turned about a dozen dolphins began to follow it. missing comma after introductory clause ending with *turned*
- C 2. Since we moved into town, our fuel bill has tripled. correct use of comma after introductory clause
- X 3. Having chosen nursing as a career Susan enrolled in many science courses. missing comma after introductory participial phrase ending with *career*
- C 4. Usually, I have time to eat breakfast. correct use of comma after introductory adverb
- C 5. From outside the twelve-mile fishing limits off the coast of Maine, a strange phenomenon has been reported. correct use of comma after combination of prepositional phrases
- X 6. When he was in high school he was known only as an athlete. missing comma after introductory clause ending with *school*
- C 7. Before you decide what courses to take, you should consider the amount of work you are willing to do. correct use of comma after introductory clause
- X 8. Nevertheless I do not want to meet him. missing comma after introductory transitional word *Nevertheless*

B. Add introductory commas where they are needed in the following sentences. Can you identify whether the introductory element, if any, is a clause, phrase, or word? If it is a phrase, what kind of phrase is it?

- P 1. To give Jane a good look at the university, Mr. Benson drove up for the Day on Campus. introductory infinitive phrase
- C 2. Since the dog had started to run, a way to catch him had to be found. introductory clause
- P 3. Of course, the movie that I had rushed to see didn't start on time. introductory prepositional phrase
- N 4. Her secondhand car was in excellent condition when she bought it. no introductory element
- C 5. As I mentioned, the rules can be broken occasionally. introductory clause
- P 6. Having decided to eat only natural foods, he had to give up all of his favorite junk food snacks. introductory participial phrase
- P 7. To estimate the costs, he consulted a repairman by phone. introductory infinitive phrase
- N 8. To succeed in politics is not necessarily desirable. no introductory element (The infinitive phrase is the subject of the sentence.)
- P 9. Making up his mind quickly, Jared ordered lasagna while we were still reading the menu. introductory participial phrase
- C 10. However he tried to use the bottle opener, it wouldn't work. introductory clause (*However* is not a transitional word here but the first word of an introductory clause.)

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