Commas with introductions and direct address

Find the Opening Clause Boundary

Name _____ Date _____

Quick review Separate an introductory dependent clause from the main clause. Use a comma to set off the name of a person being spoken to.

Example Before we paint, cover the table. The comma ends the introduction. In 'Leah, check the map,' the comma marks direct address.

Prepare observatory instructions by locating complete introductory clauses. Add or move commas at the boundary between the opening clause and the main clause, not between a subject and its verb.

Observatory Night Instructions

[1] The school observatory is holding an evening viewing session. A guide is preparing instructions about opening the doors, dimming the lights, using the indoor display, and closing the building. Each task below gives a draft instruction that needs a clear introductory boundary.

1. Add the missing comma: Before the telescope room opens visitors must wait behind the line.

2. In When the guide dims the lights everyone should stop walking, copy only the complete introductory clause and include its ending comma.

3. For Although the sky is cloudy the indoor display is still open, should the comma follow sky, cloudy, or display? Give the word and explain.

4. Move the misplaced comma: After the final visitor leaves we, will lock the door.

5. Combine these ideas into one sentence beginning Because: The line is long. We will open another viewing station. Include the required comma.

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Responses and feedback: Find the Opening Clause Boundary

These are sample responses and reasoning. Accept other answers that fit the task and are supported by the text or language rule.

1. Before the telescope room opens, visitors must wait behind the line.

Reasoning: First, find the full introductory clause, Before the telescope room opens. Next, locate the main clause beginning visitors must wait. Place the comma after opens, where the two clauses meet.

2. When the guide dims the lights,

Reasoning: First, follow When through the complete idea about the guide dimming the lights. Next, stop before everyone, the main clause's subject. The comma follows lights, not the introductory clause's subject guide.

3. Cloudy. Although the sky is cloudy is the whole introductory clause, and the main clause starts with the indoor display.

Reasoning: First, identify the opening clause beginning Although. Next, follow it through is cloudy before the main clause begins. A comma after sky would split that clause's subject and verb.

4. After the final visitor leaves, we will lock the door.

Reasoning: First, remove the comma between we and will lock because it splits the main clause's subject and verb. Next, place it after leaves to separate the complete introductory clause from that main clause.

5. Because the line is long, we will open another viewing station.

Reasoning: First, turn the reason into the introductory clause Because the line is long. Next, place a comma after long and follow it with the main clause about opening another station.