Commas with introductions and direct address

Write the Makerspace Conversation

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.

Punctuate names used in direct address at the beginning, end, and middle. Do not add a comma when a name is simply the subject. Other questions meeting the final task's requirements are valid.

Building a Cardboard Rover

[1] Makerspace partners are building a cardboard rover. The leader speaks directly to Lina about safety glasses, Jalen about a wheel, and Priya about a measuring tape. A separate report describes what Mateo does. Later, the leader needs to ask Zoe a question.

1. The leader speaks directly to Lina. Add the required comma: Lina wear your safety glasses.

2. The leader speaks directly to Jalen. Rewrite with correct punctuation: Please hold this wheel Jalen.

3. The leader addresses Priya in the middle of this question. Add both required commas: Could you Priya pass the measuring tape?

4. Should a comma be added after Mateo in Mateo sorts the buttons? Explain the name's job in this sentence.

5. Write a question asking Zoe to hold a ruler. Put Zoe in the middle of the question and set off her name correctly.

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Responses and feedback: Write the Makerspace Conversation

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

1. Lina, wear your safety glasses.

Reasoning: First, identify Lina as the person being addressed. Next, notice that her name is at the beginning. Put a comma after Lina before the instruction.

2. Please hold this wheel, Jalen.

Reasoning: First, distinguish the object wheel from the person addressed, Jalen. Next, place a comma before the final direct-address name. The comma does not belong between hold and this wheel.

3. Could you, Priya, pass the measuring tape?

Reasoning: First, locate Priya as the name addressed within the question. Next, mark both edges of the name with commas. One comma would not fully set off a middle direct-address name.

4. No. Mateo is the subject who sorts the buttons, not a person being spoken to in a request.

Reasoning: First, ask who performs sorts: Mateo does. Next, keep the subject and verb together without a comma. Mentioning a person's name is not automatically direct address.

5. Will you, Zoe, hold the ruler?

Reasoning: First, form a question requesting the ruler-holding action. Next, insert Zoe as the person addressed between other parts of the question. Put a comma on each side of her name; other grammatical questions with the same placement are valid.