

Name _____

A complex sentence is made up of two related clauses joined by a subordinating conjunction.

after although as if as long as because before if since
so that though unless until when where while

If the conjunction comes at the beginning of the complex sentence, use a comma to separate the two main parts of the sentence.

While Leon and I play instruments, we are not members of the school band.

Although he is a good drummer, Leon would rather play in his garage.

Circle the commas that separate the two clauses of each complex sentence.

1. Because my friend Leon is quite musical, his mother, his father, and his sister want him to perform all the time.
2. While Leon, my mother, and my teacher all encourage me to practice, no one would mistake me for being musical.
3. Although Leon loves the drums most, he also plays guitar, piano, and violin.
4. Whereas I don't always practice, Leon sings, plays, and composes almost every day.
5. Even though I love to play, I don't ever expect to play at a club, church, or concert hall.

Place commas between the two clauses of each of the following complex sentences.

6. Because I enjoy playing popular music from different decades I wish I knew how to play basic rhythm and blues.
7. Although some people don't like classical music I have a collection of classical MP3s.
8. Even though I listen to pop music on the radio I want to know more about world music.

Name _____

Use a comma to set off a person's name if he or she is being addressed directly.

Ryan, have you been to the new amusement park?

I think it's great, Emma.

I can tell, Ryan, that you'd like to go again.

Rewrite these sentences correctly, adding commas where they are needed.

1. Kaya have you finished your chores?

2. I think I have Ben.

3. Kaya let's get Dad to drive us to the mall.

4. Dad can you take us to the mall?

5. I would Kaya but you haven't vacuumed yet.

6. I will vacuum right now Dad.

Name _____

Use commas to set off introductory phrases of four or more words.

At the beginning of the year, I'll open a savings account.

With a short introductory phrase, no comma is needed.

After lunch we will go to the mall.

With single introductory words such as *yes*, *no*, and *well*, use a comma at the beginning of a sentence.

Well, I'm mowing my neighbor's lawn.

Add commas where they are needed.

1. By the end of the month I want to find a new hobby.
2. At home I often waste too much time.
3. However I want that hobby to be fun.
4. By the time he was my age my grandfather had learned how to cook.
5. At times I think I'd like to cook, too.
6. No I don't think I want to make a scrapbook.
7. No I do not like making things.
8. However I do like to make things I can wear.
9. By the end of this week I'll narrow it down to two choices.
10. Well I'll narrow it down to four.

Name _____

In a friendly letter, use a comma after the greeting and after the closing.

Dear Alexandra,
Sincerely,

Add commas where they belong in the greetings and the closings.

Dear Patty

Dear Auntie Reni

Your friend

Much love

Dear Mary

Your niece Anja

Dearest Lou

Dear Grandpa

Your sister

Fondly

Read the letter from Daniel to his parents. Write the greeting and the closing.
Use commas.

June 26, 2007

I'm having a great time at Grandma's. There is a pond where all the neighbors meet to go swimming. We have cookouts every weekend. I've made many new friends.

I do miss you, of course. It will be great to come back home.

Daniel

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When you write the exact words that someone says, use commas to set off the quotation from the rest of the sentence.

Eli said, "Let's play a board game."

"I think that playing cards is more fun," said Eli's mother.

"Well," said Eli, "we could do both."

Add commas where they are needed in the following sentences.

1. Mia asked "What was it like growing up in the 1970s?"
2. Her mother said that the music was the best part.
3. "I was just a kid" Mrs. Hirano explained.
4. "I'll bet you were quite a disco dancer" Mia said.
5. "No" said Mrs. Hirano, "I was more into punk."
6. Mia asked "Did you like bell bottoms and platform shoes?"
7. "Sure" Mrs. Hirano replied.
8. "I hope you didn't have any of that silly orange and green furniture" Mia said.
9. "Well" said Mrs. Hirano "we did have an orange couch."
10. "I'm glad I didn't grow up in the 1970s" said Mia.

Name _____

If you write the exact words that someone says, use quotation marks before and after the quotation.

“My favorite subject is social studies,” said Aisha.

Ali said, “I like math best.”

Rewrite each sentence correctly. Remember to use quotation marks around the quotations.

1. What historical figure do you admire most? asked Jack.

2. That’s an interesting question, said Liz.

3. Jack said, I have to write about a historical figure.

4. Mr. Brown said, Write about Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s leadership during the Great Depression.

5. Mrs. Brown said, I think Eleanor Roosevelt is fascinating.
