Name   **Date**

DLI STUDENT REFERENCE: INTRODUCTORY ELEMENTS

THE BIG IDEA: Use a comma after introductory elements.
When a sentence <u>begins</u> with an opener, a comma shows the introductory element has ended and the main clause is beginning.

Introductory Elements	Rules	Examples	Sentences
Sequence words	Use a comma to separate <u>introductory</u> sequence words and phrases from the main clause.	*next, to begin, then, finally, at last*	**First,** I need to assemble the ingredients. **After that,** we take out a mixing bowl and spoon.
Introductory words	Use a comma to separate <u>introductory</u> words from the main clause.	*yes, no, unfortunately, in fact, however, ironically, quickly*	**Yes,** I plan to attend the meeting. **Unfortunately,** the rain is coming in. **In fact,** my keys were in my pocket all the time.
Mild interjections	Use a comma to separate <u>introductory</u> mild interjections from the main clause.	*well, oh, okay, my ah*	**Well,** the bus is late today. **Ah,** the clothes are all clean and folded.
Direct address	Use a comma to separate an <u>introductory</u> direct address, naming a person to whom you are speaking, from the main clause.	*Lexi, Jed, Andrew, Mr. Thomas, Aiden*	**Lewis,** I need your spelling assignment. **Mrs. Stone,** the license bureau is on your left.
Speaker tags	Use a comma to separate an <u>introductory</u> speaker tag from the main clause.	*Lucy shouted, Dad added,*	**Sam offered,** "I can take your lunch plate back." **Mr. Timnath asked,** "Who is ready for P.E.?"
A prepositional phrase or a series of phrases totaling five or more words	Use a comma to separate an <u>introductory</u> prepositional phrase or a series of phrases totaling five or more words from the main clause.	*In, to, over, near, under, up, above, through*	**Near the winding cobblestone path,** I found my backpack. **(In the middle) (of the lake,)** three geese huddled.
Dependent clauses (to be introduced in Week 27)	Use a comma to separate an <u>introductory</u> dependent clause from the main (independent) clause.	*Clauses beginning with signal words: AAAWWUBBIS*	**After the rain ended,** Tad shot baskets. **If the store is open,** I need to stop for milk. **Since we had no homework,** I played a game.