

Name _____

Commas With Introductory Phrases



Identifying Introductory Phrases

An introductory phrase can be an interjection, or it can be a phrase or clause introducing the rest of the sentence, upon whose conditions the rest of the sentence is dependent. An introductory phrase is usually set off from the rest of the sentence with a comma.

Below is the opening passage from Charles Dickens' novel *David Copperfield*. It is broken down into individual sentences. Read each sentence. Then fill out the chart.

	What is the introductory phrase? (if there is one)	What condition does the introductory phrase specify?	What basic sentence does the introductory phrase introduce?
Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show.			
To begin my life with the beginning of my life, I record that I was born (as I have been informed and believe) on a Friday, at twelve o'clock at night. It was remarked that the clock began to strike, and I began to cry, simultaneously.			

Name _____

Commas With Introductory Phrases

	What is the introductory phrase? (if there is one)	What condition does the introductory phrase specify?	What basic sentence does the introductory phrase introduce?
In consideration of the day and hour of my birth, it was declared by the nurse, and by some sage women in the neighborhood who had taken a lively interest in me several months before there was any possibility of our becoming personally acquainted, first, that I was destined to be unlucky in life; and secondly, that I was privileged to see ghosts and spirits; both these gifts inevitably attaching, as they believed, to all unlucky infants of either gender, born towards the small hours on a Friday night.			



ANSWERS

What is the introductory phrase? (if there is one)	What condition does the introductory phrase specify?	What basic sentence does the introductory phrase introduce?
Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else,	the story will be told regardless of whether he turns out to be the hero of his own story.	these pages must show.
To begin my life with the beginning of my life,	That his story begins at the beginning	I record that I was born (as I have been informed and believe) on a Friday, at twelve o'clock at night. It was remarked that the clock began to strike, and I began to cry, simultaneously.
In consideration of the day and hour of my birth,	What follows is dependent on the day and time that he was born.	it was declared by the nurse, and by some sage women in the neighborhood who had taken a lively interest in me several months before there was any possibility of our becoming personally acquainted, first, that I was destined to be unlucky in life; and secondly, that I was privileged to see ghosts and spirits; both these gifts inevitably attaching, as they believed, to all unlucky infants of either gender, born towards the small hours on a Friday night.