

## Commas and Introductory Elements: Clauses

An introductory element in a sentence is the word, phrase or clause that appears at the beginning of the sentence and before the main clause.

**Example 1: Although it was late, Simon still wanted to go outside.**

In Example 1 *Although it was late* is an introductory element. The main clause begins with the subject of the sentence, *Simon*.

In this sentence the introductory element is a clause. A clause always has a noun and a verb. This clause tells when Simon wanted something, so the clause is working as an adverb. **Introductory clauses should be followed by a comma.**

**Example 2: As she walked out the door, it began to rain.**

In Example 2 *As she walked out the door* is an introductory adverbial clause. It has a noun (she) and a verb (walked). It tells when it began to rain, so it is modifying a verb. There should be a comma after this introductory adverbial clause.

Introductory clauses often begin with adverbs like *after, as, because, since, if, until, and when*.

Rewrite the sentences below, adding commas in the correct places.

1. When the mail arrived the man ran to the mailbox.
2. Because the bike was in the street a car ran over it.
3. Before she came to Denver Willa had lived in Cleveland.
4. Until the bell rings everyone should stay quiet.
5. After winter is over we are going to the beach.

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1. When the mail arrived the man ran to the mailbox.

**When the mail arrived, the man ran to the mailbox.**

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**Because the bike was in the street, a car ran over it.**

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**Before she came to Denver, Willa had lived in Cleveland.**

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**Until the bell rings, everyone should stay quiet.**

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**After winter is over, we are going to the beach.**