

# COMMAS TO SEPARATE INTRODUCTORY ELEMENTS

**Introductory elements** are words, phrases, or clauses that appear at the beginning of a sentence. They introduce the topic and transition the reader to the main clause of the sentence. A comma is needed to separate the introductory element from the rest of the sentence.

Look at the examples below.



**Yes, my family is going on a summer trip.**

In this sentence, "Yes" is an introductory element.

**This year, we're camping for a week in Maine.**

In this sentence, "This year" is an introductory phrase.

**Read each sentence below. Add a comma after the introductory element.**

1. Surprisingly, this family vacation is my first camping trip.
2. Before we left, I packed my backpack with everything I needed for our adventure.
3. For example, I packed a bathing suit, snacks, a flashlight, and my sleeping bag.
4. Then, I played with my siblings while we waited for Mom to get home from work.
5. After we packed the car, my family drove to a campsite in Acadia National Park.
6. This morning, we rushed to the lake to swim and play in the refreshing water.
7. While we ate a snack, we started a hike on the trail that winds through the dunes.
8. Without thinking, I walked off the trail and almost stepped in a patch of poison ivy!
9. Clearly, I need to be more careful when I'm wandering in nature.
10. Later, my siblings and I will go on a scavenger hunt throughout the campground.
11. When the sun goes down, we'll gather around the campfire to roast marshmallows.
12. Before bed, I'll stargaze and listen to the relaxing sounds of nature.

