

## Comma Missing After Introductory Clause or Phrase

DEFINITION: Commas are necessary after introductory clauses or phrases. When commas are not put where they belong, sentences are stringy and difficult to understand.

EXERCISE: ADD COMMAS WHERE THEY BELONG.

1. After the opera the main characters stroll down the avenue and discuss world affairs.
2. Though the report was informative my colleagues and I worried about its curt tone.
3. An articulate and respected businessperson Harold makes a good candidate for president of the board.

HAVING TROUBLE? Adding commas after introductory clauses and phrases can be difficult if you do not completely understand clauses and phrases. Read on for information about each type of word group.

### Understanding Clauses and Phrases

DEFINITIONS: A clause is a word group that contains a subject and a verb, but not all clauses can stand alone.

EXAMPLES: The sky is blue.



## Independent and Dependent Clauses

DEFINITION: An independent clause contains a subject and a verb and can stand alone as a sentence.

EXAMPLE: **inez had** a lovely wedding.||

DEFINITION: A dependent clause



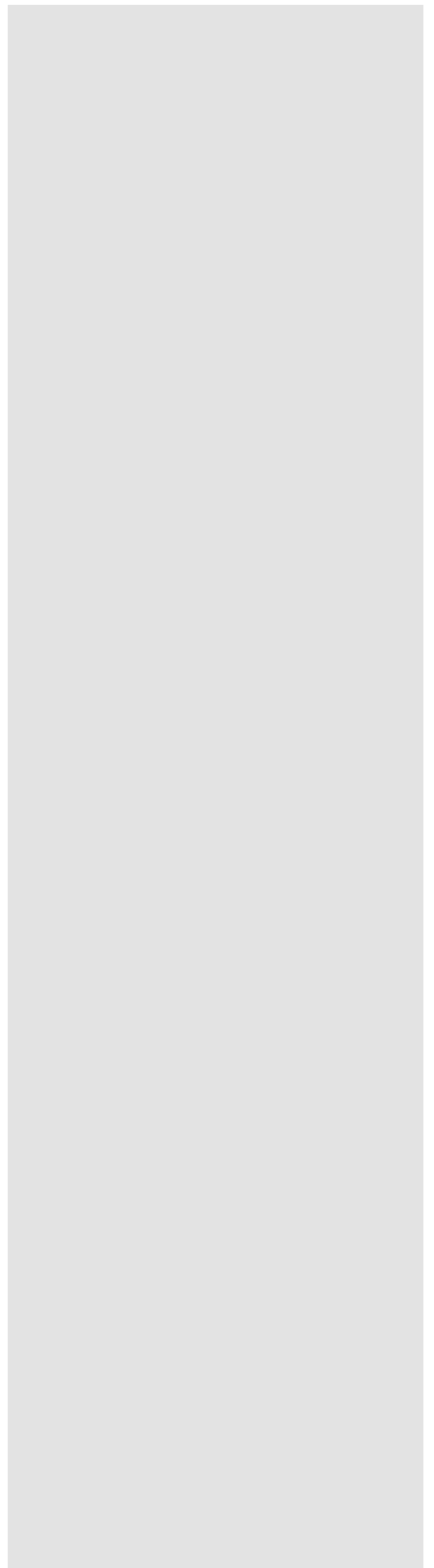
These phrases are frequently used as introductory phrases:

**PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE:** A phrase beginning with a preposition and ending with the noun the preposition modifies.

**EXAMPLE:** Throughout the winter, the family hoped that her prognosis would improve, and the doctors continued to monitor her closely for heart failure.

**PARICIPIAL PHRASE:** A present or past participle and its objects, complements, and modifiers.

**EXAMPLE:** Winded, the runners took one more lap around the track before returning to their teammates.





4. Honored Elaine took her seat next to the college's president, a woman whose keen business skills and intellectualism Elaine greatly admired.
5. Even though Maryann moved to Austin her friends still drive by her old house.
6. An expert in high-risk pregnancies Dr. Kozi recommended that Ana remain well hydrated throughout her third trimester.
7. Over the mountains the stars shine bright.
8. Having eaten three servings of lamb Hernando began to experience indigestion.