

Grade 2 • Lesson 9: Direct Address

PUNCTUATION & THE VOCATIVE



The Comma Rule of Direct Address

When addressing someone by name, separate the name with a comma (,).

- At start: *John, come here.*
- At end: *Be kind, Charles.*
- In middle: *Come, Lucy, or we will be late.*

A COMMANDS WITH NAMES

1. Write a command with a proper name as the **first word**:

1.

2. Write a command with a proper name as the **last word**:

2.

3. Write a command with the name in the **middle** (between two commas):

3.

B QUESTIONS WITH NAMES

4. Write a question with a proper name as the **last word** (ends with ?):

4.

5. Write a question beginning with **Jane** as the first word:

5.

C ADD THE MISSING COMMAS

Insert the missing comma(s) of direct address:

1. Mary please bring me the slate.
2. Are the strawberries ripe Robert?
3. Listen Arthur to the songbird.

Linguistic Concept: The Vocative (Noun of Direct Address):

A noun of direct address names the person spoken to. Because it is grammatically independent of the subject and predicate, classical syntax sets it off with commas. Pupils must recognize that moving the name changes where commas are required.

Textbook Examples & Exemplar Student Work:

- **Name First (Command):** John, come here. → Comma follows the initial proper name; terminal period.
- **Name Last (Command):** Be kind to your parents, Charles. → Comma precedes the final proper name; terminal period.
- **Name in Middle (Command):** Come, Lucy, or we will be late. → Commas bracket the name on both sides; terminal period.
- **Name Last (Question):** Are the roses in bloom, Clara? → Comma precedes name; terminal interrogation point (?).
- **Name First (Question):** Jane, is the lily white as snow? → Comma follows name; terminal interrogation point (?).

Section C • Comma Insertion Key:

1. Mary, please bring me the slate. (Comma after *Mary*).
2. Are the strawberries ripe, Robert? (Comma before *Robert*).
3. Listen, Arthur, to the songbird. (Two commas enclosing *Arthur* in the middle).

Competency	Mastery (Exemplary)	Developing	Needs Guidance
Comma Placement	Flawlessly places single commas (start/end) and double commas (middle).	1 misplaced or omitted comma in middle position.	Omits commas of direct address altogether.
Proper Noun Capitalization	All names (John, Charles, Lucy, Jane, Clara) capitalized properly.	1 lowercase proper noun.	Consistently forgets to capitalize names.
Terminal Punctuation	Strictly applies period (.) to commands and question mark (?) to inquiries.	1 terminal mark error.	Confuses periods and question marks.
Sentence Fluency	Composes original, meaningful sentences beyond rote repetition.	Sentences are formulaic but grammatically correct.	Sentences are incomplete or ungrammatical.