Commas after beginning phrases or clauses

EX.

(beginning phrase)

<u>After the play,</u> we went home. (beginning clause)

After we left the beach, we went home

PRACTICE THE CONVERSATION:

- Will you please read the first sentence? **A**:
- After the play, we went home. B:
- **A:** Why is there a comma after *play*?
- **B**: We use commas after beginning phrases. After the play is a beginning phrase.
- Isn't it a sentence by itself? **A**:
- **B**: No.
- How do you know? A:
- **B**: There's no verb in it.
- **A**: Great. So it's less than a sentence. What do we do?
- **B**: We put a comma after it.
- Good. Will you read the second sentence? A:
- After we left the beach, we went home. **B**:
- Why is there a comma after beach? **A**:
- Everything before the comma isn't a whole sentence. B:
- **A:** Are you sure?
- Sure. It has a subject and verb, but the word after **B**: makes it less than a whole sentence.
- Huh? **A**:
- Listen to it by itself: After we left the beach. See? **B**: That's not a whole sentence.
- Right. So what do we do? A:
- **B**: We use a comma to separate a beginning phrase or clause. That one is a clause.
- **A**: What's a clause?
- **B**: It's anything with a subject and verb that doesn't stand alone as a sentence.
- **A**: Great job.



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