Better Writing

Using a Comma with Introductory Word Groups

VOCABULARY

Introductory Word Group
A dependent clause or phrase that begins a sentence.

Dependent Clause or Phrase
A group of words which cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

THE RULE

Use a comma to set off an introductory word group.

PRACTICE

Error: When I start writing my paper right before it's due I always get a low grade.

Correction: When I start writing my paper right before it's due, I always get a low grade.

Error: To try to stay dry in the rain on campus use a golf umbrella.

Correction: To try to stay dry in the rain on campus, use a golf umbrella.

Error: Although I enjoy eating carrots I don't want to eat them as snacks.

Correction: Although I enjoy eating carrots, I don't want to eat them as snacks.