EXERCISE 28-1
Commas Between Main Clauses and After Introductory Elements: Revising Text (28a, b)

Add commas where they are required in the following paragraphs. Some sentences may require more than one comma, and some may require none.

Example: By studying common features of languages, linguists learn about the history of the languages.

1 Discovering the origin of English is like reading a detective story. Applying deductive reasoning to available clues linguists have traced its beginnings to a hypothetical language called Indo-European. This language did actually exist but there is no record of it other than in the languages that derived from it. In addition to English among these languages existing today are German, Swedish, French, Greek, and Russian. To discover similar roots linguists traced common words. For example night in English is nacht in German, natt in Swedish, nuit in French, nuktos in Greek, and noch in Russian. Interestingly some of these languages that derive from Indo-European are classified as Romance, or Latinate and some are Germanic. Still others have other histories.

2 On the basis of the presence or absence of certain words in the related languages linguists speculate that Indo-European existed in Eastern Europe several thousand years before Christ. They found evidence of words for bear and snow but they discovered no common words for camel
and ocean. Using this evidence they supposed that the language was spoken by an inland people that experienced winter climates.

At some point Indo-European split into Eastern and Western branches and these branches then divided again. Like English Swedish derived from a branch of Western Indo-European, the Germanic. Greek and French also derived from a branch of Western Indo-European but Russia's origins are in Eastern Indo-European.