

Fronted Adverbials

Fronted Adverbials are words or phrases at the beginning of a sentence which are used to describe the action that follows.

| Time | Frequency | Place | Manner | Possibility |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Afterwards, Already, Always, Immediately, Last month, Now, Soon, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, Next year, In January, On Tuesday, In the morning, After a while, As soon as she could, Before long, All of a sudden, In the blink of an eye, Just then, Eventually, Later, | Often, Again, Daily, Weekly, Fortnightly, Yearly, Sometimes, Rarely, Every second, Twice a year, Once a minute, Once, Once or twice, Three times, Constantly, Regularly, Frequently, Infrequently, Occasionally, Rarely, Never in my life, Never before, | Above the clouds, Below the sea, Here, Outside, Over there, There, Under the ground, Upstairs, In the distance, Between the sea and the sky, Everywhere she looked, Around the tent, Back at the house, Nearby, Down by the cliffs, Behind the shed, In the wooden box, Over my bed, Somewhere near here, Far away, Wherever they went, North of here, | Sadly, Slowly, Happily, Awkwardly, Bravely, Like a ... , As quick as a flash, As fast as he could, Without a sound, Without warning, Unexpectedly, Unfortunately, Suddenly, Mysteriously, Frantically, Anxiously, Courageously, Silently, Curiously, Nervously, Rapidly, Carefully, | Almost unbelievably, Much admired, Nearly asleep, Quite understandably, Really happily, Perhaps, Maybe, Just arrived, Certainly amused, Obviously angry, Definitely confused, Completely exhausted, Barely alive, Out of breath, Decidedly unimpressed, Perfectly confident, Positively trembling with excitement, Purely practically, Somewhat flustered, Utterly joyous, Totally overwhelmed, |



Missing Commas

Oh dear! Somebody has written the following sentences but has forgotten to place a comma after the fronted adverbials. Find where the comma should go and add it to each sentence.

1. Early one morning I went for a jog.
2. Nervously Sameera started to sing on stage.
3. Beneath the crashing waves the dolphins quickly swam.
4. From her window the princess let down her hair.
5. In January the weather is very cold.
6. With a loud roar the T. rex chased the smaller dinosaur.
7. After lunch the girl went to play in the garden.
8. Inside school the children were working hard.

Write your own sentences using the fronted adverbials below. Remember to add a comma after each fronted adverbial.

- **Under the crashing waves**
 - **As the sun was setting**
 - **Like a statue**
-
-
-

Adding Adverbials

Here is a short description of a tropical rainforest. However, the writer hasn't included any fronted adverbials in the story. Try to improve the text by adding fronted adverbials. In this activity, you must decide where to add the fronted adverbials yourself and what type of adverbials to use. For example:

The parrots were preening their feathers.

Early in the morning, the parrots were preening their feathers.

Remember:

- You can add fronted adverbials to answer the questions Where? When? How?
- Place a comma after each fronted adverbial.



The sun began to rise over a tropical rainforest. The sounds of different animals could be heard as they carried out their daily activities. A roaring waterfall cascaded down into the cool river. The sunlight sparkled and glittered on the water's surface. The sweet scents of tropical flowers drifted whilst insects went from

plant to plant. A butterfly flapped its wings whilst a blue frog watched. A silky black jaguar was sitting on a rock relaxing in the sun. The monkeys began to howl as they saw a spotted jaguar strolling through the water. The parrots began to flap their wings and took flight to escape the noise. The spotted jaguar lapped up some water and then disappeared into the undergrowth, looking for prey. The sun began to set.

Adding Adverbials

Please use this sheet to rewrite the story with your own ideas for fronted adverbials.



This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Year 3 and 4 Grammar: Fronted Adverbials

Learning From Home Activity Booklet **Answers**

Missing Commas

Early one morning, I went for a jog.

Nervously, Sameera started to sing on stage.

Beneath the crashing waves, the dolphins quickly swam.

From her window, the princess let down her hair.

In January, the weather is very cold.

With a loud roar, the T. rex chased the smaller dinosaur.

After lunch, the girl went to play in the garden.

Inside school, the children were working hard.

Challenge!

Accept any fronted adverbial that is grammatically correct and explains where the event may have happened.

Adding Adverbials

When checking your child's work, please accept any appropriate fronted adverbial that makes sense when added to the sentence with the correct use of a comma.. Here you will find some examples of the types of fronted adverbials that could have been used.

Early one morning, the sun began to rise over a tropical rainforest. **In a forest clearing**, the sounds of different animals could be heard as they carried out their daily activities. **Behind the animals**, a roaring waterfall cascaded down into the cool river. **Like stars in the sky**, the sunlight sparkled and glittered on the water's surface. **In the air**, the sweet scents of tropical flowers drifted whilst insects went from plant to plant. **On a leaf**, a butterfly flapped its wings whilst a blue frog watched. **Like a statue**, a silky black jaguar was sitting on a rock relaxing in the sun. **Suddenly**, the monkeys began to howl as they saw a spotted jaguar strolling through the water. **Anxiously**, the parrots began to flap their wings and took flight to escape the noise. **A short while later**, the spotted jaguar lapped up some water and then disappeared into the undergrowth, looking for prey. **Later in the day**, the sun began to set.

Fronted Adverbials Mini Test

1. Tick **all** the sentences that contain a **fronted adverbial**.

- Walking across the field, the children became very muddy.

☐
- It was great fun doing the washing up.

☐
- Her mum works in an office.

☐
- Standing by Emma, Jack hopped on one leg.

☐

1 mark

2. Make three fronted adverbial sentences from the blue and orange tiles. Your sentences must make sense.

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| After that, | As quickly as possible, | Without reason, |
| In the morning, | Back at the house, | Unexpectedly, |
| Fortunately, | Once a year, | While I was waiting, |
| I tried again. | we are going to the seaside. | my computer screen turned off. |
| Dad was cleaning the kitchen. | we celebrate Christmas. | she reappeared right in front of us. |
| I checked my coat pocket and my lunch money was there. | she ran back from school. | I drew a picture in my journal. |

3 marks

1.

2.

3.

total for this page

3. Underline the adverbials, circle the verbs.

Before the sun came up, he ate his breakfast.

All night long, she danced.

As fast as he could, the rabbit hopped.

Under the clock, he stood.

4. Insert the comma in the correct place to demarcate the fronted adverbial.

Watching from the castle wall the archer readied his bow.

Even if you ask politely I will not let you eat that chocolate.

Despite the rain she didn't have her umbrella up.

Although I love sweets they are bad for my teeth.

Throughout the film my sister talked on her phone.

Because my mum loves the seaside we often go for day trips.

1 mark

1 mark

..
END OF TEST

total for
this page

- 1 Tick **all** the sentences that contain a **fronted adverbial**.

Walking across the field, the children became very muddy.

☒

It was great fun doing the washing up.

☐

Her mum works in an office.

☐

Standing by Emma, Jack hopped on one leg.

☒

1 mark

- 2 Make three fronted adverbial sentences from the blue and orange tiles. Your sentences must make sense.

3 marks

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|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
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| I tried again. | we are going to the seaside. | my computer screen turned off. |
| Dad was cleaning the kitchen. | we celebrate Christmas. | she reappeared right in front of us. |
| I checked my coat pocket and my lunch money was there. | she ran back from school. | I drew a picture in my journal. |

Multiple answers possible. Sentences **must** make sense. Examples:

Once a year, we celebrate Christmas.

While I was waiting, my computer screen turned off.

Unexpectedly, she reappeared in front of us.

- 3 Underline the adverbials, circle the verbs.

1 mark

Before the sun came up, he ate his breakfast.

All night long, she danced.

As fast as he could, the rabbit hopped.

Under the clock he stood.

- 4 Watching from the castle wall, the archer readied his bow.

1 mark

Even if you ask politely, I will not let you eat that chocolate.

Despite the rain, she didn't have her umbrella up.

Although I love sweets, they are bad for my teeth.

Throughout the film, my sister talked on her phone.

Because my mum loves the seaside, we often go for day trips.

A Parent's Guide to Terminology

In Years 3 and 4, your child will be taught to add fronted adverbials to sentences. This is a complicated name for something that is actually very easy! However, if your child doesn't yet have a secure knowledge of adverbs and adverbial phrases, it would be best to review these first.

Adverbs – These are words that give more information about verbs, adjectives, other adverbs and clauses. They often end in 'ly' but not always. For example:

The boy shouted **angrily**.

The sun is **extremely** bright.

The sloth moved very **slowly**.

Adverbial Phrase – This is when a group of words (a phrase) is used rather than a single adverb to modify clauses (they add more information about the main action taking place). For example:

The birds flew **through the sky**.

I went for a walk **early in the morning**.

The boy ate the chocolate **with a smile on his face**.

Fronted adverbial: A fronted adverbial is an adverb or an adverbial phrase that comes at the front of a sentence (it comes before the verb or action it is describing). It is always separated from the main clause with a comma. For example:

Inside the sunken ship, a shoal of fish swam.

Later in the evening, they sat down to watch television.

Nervously, she walked onto the stage.

When discussing fronted adverbials with your child, it is helpful to explain that fronted adverbials tell the reader *Where?* *When?* or *How?* something happens. This helps them to understand how to use them.

An easy way to practise this is with picture books and images. Use the question words **Where?** **When?** **How?** to generate a fronted adverbial. For example, you may ask your child:

Where is the man eating dinner?

To which, you may get the response:

At the table or **In the kitchen**

These adverbial phrases can then be added to the front of the sentence to make a fronted adverbial.

For a further explanation of the phrases above and more examples and activities try these Twinkl resources:

[Adverbs, Adverbial Phrases, Fronted Adverbials Lesson Teaching Pack](#)

[Fronted Adverbials Word Mat](#)