Sentence openers: answers and notes

What your child practised: spotting and making fronted adverbials.

Page 1 · Warm up

After school · In the cupboard · Without a sound

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check each one comes before the main sentence and answers when, where or how.

Page 2 · A. Ring the whole opener

1. **Once upon a time** when
2. **Later that evening** when
3. **As quick as a flash** how
4. **Deep in the forest** where

Page 3 · B. Move it

At half past three, the bell rang.
Across the pond, the ducks swam.
With great care, Tom finished his drawing.

Page 3 · C. Tick

Tick: **Suddenly,** · **Behind the curtain,** · **Every morning,**
No tick: the other three (in the last one, the adverbials are at the end).

Page 3 · D. Rewrite

e.g. **Loudly, the dog barked.** · **After lunch, she ran to the park.** (any sensible opener with a comma)

Page 3 · Challenge

No. Cover "Very early" and "in the morning," is still left over. The whole opener is **Very early in the morning**.

Watch out for

- **Picking part of the main sentence** (like "the stars"). The fronted adverbial comes before the subject and verb, and in Year 4 it's followed by a comma, which is a useful clue.
- **Picking only some of the words** in a long opener ("Deep" instead of "Deep in the forest"). Use the finger test: the rest must be a complete sentence on its own.
- **Forgetting to move the capital letter.** The opener now starts the sentence, so it gets the capital: "The bell rang..." becomes "At half past three, the bell rang." Names and I keep their capitals.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Story starts:** take turns starting a story with an opener: "Once upon a time,", "Far away,", "Very quietly,".
- **In the game:** Chapter 3, Commas after fronted adverbials, shows exactly where the comma goes.