Name _____ Date _____

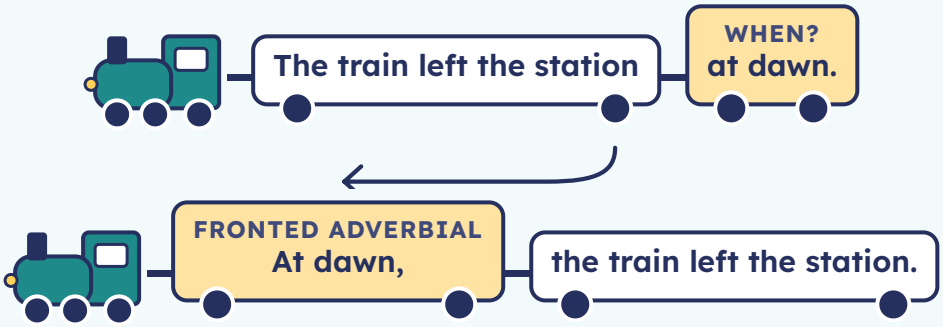
Sentence openers

Move when, where or how to the front of the sentence.

1 Learn



A **fronted adverbial** is an adverbial that has moved to the **front** of the sentence, before the verb. Schools often call them **sentence openers**.



Move it to the front: Mia read her book under the blanket.

1. Find the main sentence: **Mia read her book**.
2. Find the adverbial: **under the blanket** (it says where).
3. Move it to the front, give it a capital letter, and put a comma after it.
4. **Under the blanket, Mia read her book.** It still makes sense!

Flip's tip: to check you've found the whole fronted adverbial, cover it with your finger. What's left should still make a full sentence.

Warm up: underline the fronted adverbial in each sentence.

After school, Ben played chess. In the cupboard, a mouse found cheese.

Without a sound, the cat crept closer.

Grown-ups: a fronted adverbial comes before the subject and verb. It can be one word (Suddenly,) or several (Very early in the morning,).

Name _____ Date _____

2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Opener hunt

You need: two or three storybooks from home and a pencil.

1. Open a book anywhere. Look at how each sentence **starts**.
2. When a sentence starts by saying when, where or how, read it aloud. Is there a comma after the opener?
3. Write the fronted adverbial in the table, and whether it says when, where or how.
4. Find five. Then pick one and say the sentence with the adverbial moved to the end. Which way sounds better in the story?

#	Fronted adverbial	When, where or how?
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Grown-ups: fairy tales are a great place to start: "Once upon a time," is a fronted adverbial that says when. Adventure stories are full of "Suddenly," and "Without warning,".

3 Practise

A. Draw a ring round the **whole** fronted adverbial. Then write when, where or how.

1 Once upon a time, a dragon lived in a cave. _____

2 Later that evening, the stars came out. _____

3 As quick as a flash, the fox vanished. _____

4 Deep in the forest, an owl was hooting. _____

Sentence openers

Name _____ Date _____

B. Move the adverbial to the front. Write the new sentence with a capital letter and a comma.

1 The bell rang at half past three.

_____

2 The ducks swam across the pond.

_____

3 Tom finished his drawing with great care.

_____

C. Tick the sentences that start with a fronted adverbial.

- ☐ The dog barked loudly.
- ☐ My brother likes pizza.
- ☐ Every morning, I brush my teeth.
- ☐ Suddenly, the lights went out.
- ☐ Behind the curtain, Ava giggled.
- ☐ She ran to the park after lunch.

D. Pick one sentence from C that you didn't tick. Rewrite it with a fronted adverbial.

_____

Challenge

Sam says the fronted adverbial in **"Very early in the morning, the birds began to sing."** is just **"Very early"**. Is he right? Use Flip's finger test to explain.

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ spot a fronted adverbial at the start of a sentence
- ☐ find all the words in a long fronted adverbial
- ☐ move when, where or how words to the front of a sentence