Write with openers: answers and notes

What your child practised: writing their own sentences that start with a fronted adverbial and a comma (Year 4).

Page 1 · Warm up

After tea, **We** → **we** · in the hall → **In**

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check: capital letter, opener, comma, small letter (unless a name or I), full stop.

Page 2 · A. Match

As the sun set, **the sky turned orange.**
Under the old bridge, **a troll was waiting.**
With a mighty roar, **the lion leapt.**
Every Sunday, **we visit Grandad.**

Page 3 · B. Openers

Answers will vary, e.g. **Last Friday,** · **High in the corner,** · **With trembling hands,**

Page 3 · C. Rewrite

On the pier, we ate ice cream.
At midnight, the fox crept through the garden. (Through the garden, the fox crept at midnight. is also correct.)

Page 3 · D. The picture

Answers will vary, e.g. **On a sunny afternoon,** a dog played in the park. · **Next to the tree,** the dog wagged its tail. · **Very calmly,** the duck floated on the pond.

Page 3 · Challenge

No. The comma doesn't start a new sentence, so the next word keeps a small letter: **Last night, the wind howled.**

Watch out for

- **Forgetting the comma** in their own writing. Ask them to read it aloud and point to where they paused.
- **A capital letter straight after the comma** (Last night, The…). The sentence carries on, so it's a small letter unless it's a name or I.
- **No capital at the start.** The opener now begins the sentence, so its first word needs the capital.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Car-journey story:** build a story together, one sentence each, every sentence starting with a different opener.
- **Opener swap:** say a sentence; your child says it again with a when, then a where, then a how opener.
- **In the game:** Chapter 5, Word jobs, looks at determiners, pronouns and possessive pronouns.