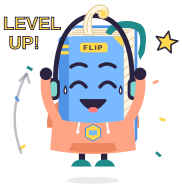
Name _____ Date _____

Write with openers

Start your own sentences with when, where or how.

1 Learn



Now you're the writer! Choose a **when**, **where** or **how** opener, add a **comma**, then write the main sentence. Openers make writing more interesting to read.

After breakfast **,** **w**e fed the ducks **.**

capital letter + opener · **comma** · **small letter + main sentence** · **full stop**

After the comma, keep writing with a small letter, unless the word is a name or **I** (After lunch, Mia… · After lunch, I…).

Build a sentence: start with **The children played.**

1. Choose a kind of opener. When? **After the rain stopped** · Where? **In the muddy garden** · How? **With squeals of delight**
2. Write it first, with a capital letter, then a comma.
3. Add the main sentence with a small letter, and finish with a full stop.
4. **After the rain stopped, the children played in the puddles.** You can add more detail too!

Flip's tip: mix up your openers. If every sentence starts with "Then," your reader gets bored. Try "A moment later,", "Behind the door," or "Very carefully,".

Warm up: each sentence has one capital letter mistake. Ring it.

After tea, We played cards. in the hall, the clock ticked.

Grown-ups: let your child say the sentence aloud first, then write it. Saying it helps them hear where the opener ends and the comma goes.

Name _____ Date _____

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



Retell your day

You need: 6 scraps of paper, a pencil and a cup or bowl.

1. Write 6 openers on the scraps: two **when** (After breakfast, At lunchtime), two **where** (At school, In the kitchen) and two **how** (Very quickly, With a big yawn). Put them in the cup.
2. Take turns to pull out an opener and use it to say a true sentence about your day.
3. Keep going until the cup is empty. Pick your child's favourite four.
4. Your child writes those four below, with a comma after each opener.

Grown-ups: tell your part of the day too, so your child hears plenty of examples. Check each written sentence for the capital, the comma and the full stop.

3 Practise

A. Draw lines to match each opener to the best ending.

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

Write with openers

Name _____ Date _____

B. Write an opener of the right kind for each sentence. Remember the comma.

1 _____ the class went on a trip. **when?**

2 _____ a spider spun its web. **where?**

3 _____ Ava opened the present. **how?**

C. Rewrite each sentence so it starts with its adverbial.

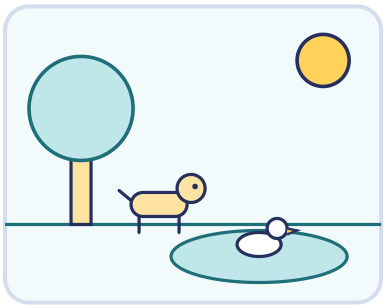
1 We ate ice cream on the pier.

_____

2 The fox crept through the garden at midnight.

_____

D. Look at the picture. Write three sentences about it: one with a **when** opener, one with a **where** opener and one with a **how** opener.



when

_____

where

_____

how

_____

Challenge

Leo wrote: **Last night, The wind howled.** He says it's fine because it's a new part of the sentence. Is he right? Fix it if not.

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ write my own fronted adverbial
- ☐ add the comma after it
- ☐ use a small letter after the comma
- ☐ choose when, where or how openers