



# Fronted Adverbials:

What Is a Fronted Adverbial?



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# Fronted Adverbial Hunt

## What is an adverbial?

An adverbial is a word, phrase or clause that is used, like an adverb, to modify a verb or a clause. Adverbs can be used as adverbials, but many other types of words, phrases and clauses can be used in this way, including prepositional phrases and subordinate clauses.

## What is a fronted adverbial?

When an adverbial is used at the beginning of a sentence, they are often called 'fronted adverbials'.





# Next Steps: Types of Fronted Adverbial

Fronted adverbials are used to describe...

the **time** something happens,

e.g. **Before sunrise**, Darius crept into the beast's cave.

the **frequency** (how often) something happens,

e.g. **Every so often**, Darius could hear the beast's ferocious snore.

the **place** something happens,

e.g. **At the back of the cave**, the terrifying creature began to stir.

the **manner** something happens,

e.g. **As quick as a flash**, Darius bounded behind a nearby rock.

the **possibility** (how likely) something will/has happen(ed),

e.g. **Almost certainly**, the deadly beast would find Darius.

Did you notice  
how the fronted  
adverbials were  
punctuated?

# Next Steps: Adding Commas

Every fronted adverbial word, phrase or clause needs to be followed by a comma to separate it from the main clause of the sentence. Where should the comma go in this fronted adverbial sentence?

Slowly and carefully, they released the juvenile badger back into the wild.

Does the fronted adverbial describe the time, frequency, manner, place or possibility of the action in the main clause?

# Next Steps: Adding Commas

Where should the comma go in this fronted adverbial sentence?

On Tuesday, Class 12 are visiting  
The Imperial War Museum.

Does the fronted adverbial describe the time, frequency, manner, place or possibility of the action in the main clause?



# Next Steps: Adding Commas

Where should the comma go in this fronted adverbial sentence?

Without a doubt, Billy was going to finish the race in first place.

Does the fronted adverbial describe the time, frequency, manner, place or possibility of the action in the main clause?

# Next Steps: Adding Commas

Where should the comma go in this fronted adverbial sentence?

Out in the field, the horse and  
her new foal galloped.

Does the fronted adverbial describe the time, frequency, manner,  
place or possibility of the action in the main clause?

# Fronted Adverbial Hunt

Can you spot the fronted adverbials in this piece of text? Do they describe the **time**, **frequency**, **manner**, **place** or **possibility** of the action in the main clause?

**Against all the odds**, Captain Curk got to his rocket before his oxygen supply ran out. **Back in the safety of his shuttle**, he removed his helmet and began to prepare for take-off. **Suddenly**, there was a loud crash at the shuttle door. The aliens must have caught up with him. **Feeling intimidated**, the captain quickly strapped himself into his seat as the door began to buckle. **Almost certainly**, the aliens would capture him if he didn't leave this planet right away. **With a trembling finger**, he pressed the launch button...10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...BLAST OFF!

**Seconds later**, Curk was in the air but something was wrong. The fuel tank gauge showed a dangerously low level of fuel. The extra-terrestrial creatures must have caused it to leak. **Sputtering noisily**, the spacecraft started to stall. What was the captain going to do?



# Writing Your Own Fronted Adverbials: ISPACE

Using ISPACE can help you remember six different ways to create fronted adverbials...



**-Ing word**

e.g. Shaking with fear, ...



**Simile**

e.g. Like a raging bull, ...



**Preposition**

e.g. Behind the clouds, ...



**Adverb**

e.g. Anxiously, ...



**Conjunction**

e.g. After he opened his eyes, ...



**-Ed word**

e.g. Exhausted, ...

# Fronted Adverbial or Subordinate Clause?

If you begin your fronted adverbial with a subordinating conjunction, for example...



## Conjunction

e.g. After he opened his eyes,

This could also be described as a subordinate clause as it contains a subject and a verb.

So, sometimes fronted adverbials can also be subordinate clauses.



# Practise Your Skills



Now, it's your turn.

Using the ISPACE acronym to help, can you invent a fronted adverbial to describe the time, frequency, manner, place or possibility of the action in this main clause?

\_\_\_\_\_, the jubilant winner  
of the talent contest celebrated.

Let's hear some of your fronted adverbial ideas. How does changing the fronted adverbial affect the meaning of the whole sentence?

# Practise Your Skills



Now, it's your turn.

Using the ISPACE acronym to help, can you invent a fronted adverbial to describe the time, frequency, manner, place or possibility of the action in this main clause?

\_\_\_\_\_, the parachutist  
landed with a bump.

Let's hear some of your fronted adverbial ideas. How does changing the fronted adverbial affect the meaning of the whole sentence?



# Practise Your Skills



Now, it's your turn.

Using the ISPACE acronym to help, can you invent a fronted adverbial to describe the time, frequency, manner, place or possibility of the action in this main clause?

\_\_\_\_\_, the trees were covered with a fine dusting of snow.

Let's hear some of your fronted adverbial ideas. How does changing the fronted adverbial affect the meaning of the whole sentence?

# Practise Your Skills



Now, it's your turn.

Using the ISPACE acronym to help, can you invent a fronted adverbial to describe the time, frequency, manner, place or possibility of the action in this main clause?

\_\_\_\_\_, she began to cry.

Let's hear some of your fronted adverbial ideas. How does changing the fronted adverbial affect the meaning of the whole sentence?



# Practise Your Skills



Now, it's your turn.

Using the ISPACE acronym to help, can you invent a fronted adverbial to describe the time, frequency, manner, place or possibility of the action in this main clause?

\_\_\_\_\_, the audience gasped.

Let's hear some of your fronted adverbial ideas. How does changing the fronted adverbial affect the meaning of the whole sentence?

# Quick Quiz: Question 1

Where should the commas be in these sentences to separate the fronted adverbials from the main clauses?

- a) Clumsily, the waitress dropped all of the plates on the restaurant floor.
- b) Like an erupting volcano, Mum suddenly lost her temper.
- c) Although it was raining, the children still went on the school trip.



## Quick Quiz: Question 2

Can you think of appropriate fronted adverbials to describe the action in these main clauses?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ the children bought Mum a bunch of flowers.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ the witch stirred the potion.

# Quick Quiz: Question 3

Can you remember all of the different ways that you could start a fronted adverbial using the 'ISPACE' acronym?

I

-Ing word

S

Simile

P

Preposition

A

Adverb

C

Conjunction

E

-Ed word





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