

Year 3 and 4 Grammar: Fronted Adverbials

Learning From Home Activity Booklet

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Where Is It?

Fronted Adverbials to Show Location

Fronted adverbials can be added to sentences to describe location. They tell the reader where something takes place. For example:

In class, the boy sat listening to his teacher.

The fronted adverbial in this sentence is '**In class**' because it tells the reader where the boy is. In the activity below, please match the fronted adverbial with the correct sentence to explain where it happens.

In a forest,

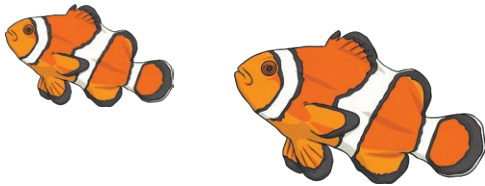
Below the waves,

Behind the counter,

In the park,

On the table,

On a rock,



the fish swam
quickly.



Jack went on the swings.

Sarah placed her book and pen.

the monkeys swung through
the trees.

the mermaid watched ships passing.

the shopkeeper stood
serving customers.

Challenge!

Add a fronted adverbial to each of these sentences to explain where they might happen.

1. _____, Emma ate delicious ice cream.

2. _____, the lion loudly roared.

3. _____, the car beeped its horn.

When Did It Happen?

Fronted Adverbials to Show Time

Fronted adverbials can be added to sentences to describe time. They tell the reader when something takes place. For example:

Early in morning, I went for a stroll in the park.

The fronted adverbial in this sentence is 'Early in the morning' because it tells the reader when the stroll took place. In the activity below, please match the fronted adverbial with the correct sentence to explain when it happens.

After a while,

Every year,

Before school,

In the evening sun,

After dinner,

In December,

Siraaq ate his delicious dessert.

John had to put his uniform on.

many people celebrate Christmas.

long shadows stretched across the ground.

I celebrate my birthday.

the rain cleared and the sun came out.

Challenge!



Add a fronted adverbial to each of these sentences to explain when they might have happened.

1. _____, I get ready to go to school.
2. _____, the dog went to sleep.
3. _____, Claire cleaned her teeth.

How Did It Happen?

Fronted Adverbials to Show Manner

Fronted adverbials can also be added to sentences to describe manner. They explain to the reader how something happens. They can be a single word or a phrase. For example:

Without a sound, the boy entered the room.

The fronted adverbial in this sentence is '**Without a sound**' because it tells the reader how the boy entered the room. Use the words and phrases in the word bank to complete the sentences below with a **fronted adverbial** for manner (to show how it happened).



1. _____, the girl ran through the park.
2. _____, the sun disappeared and it began to rain.
3. _____, Jack and Sarah entered the haunted house.
4. _____, the fish swam away from the terrifying shark.
5. _____, the frog jumped from lily pad to lily pad.
6. _____, the knight fought the mighty dragon.
7. _____, the witch cast a magical spell.
8. _____, Hamsa opened his birthday present.



- With a smile
- Suddenly
- With a wave of her wand
- Like lightning
- Fearfully
- With great courage
- Like an acrobat
- Nervously

Missing Commas

Oh dear! Somebody has written the following sentences but has forgotten to place a comma after the fronted adverbials. Find where the comma should go and add it to each sentence.

1. Early one morning I went for a jog.
2. Nervously Sameera started to sing on stage.
3. Beneath the crashing waves the dolphins quickly swam.
4. From her window the princess let down her hair.
5. In January the weather is very cold.
6. With a loud roar the T. rex chased the smaller dinosaur.
7. After lunch the girl went to play in the garden.
8. Inside school the children were working hard.

Write your own sentences using the fronted adverbials below. Remember to add a comma after each fronted adverbial.

- **Under the crashing waves**
 - **As the sun was setting**
 - **Like a statue**
-
-
-

Adding Adverbials

Here is a short description of a tropical rainforest. However, the writer hasn't included any fronted adverbials in the story. Try to improve the text by adding fronted adverbials. In this activity, you must decide where to add the fronted adverbials yourself and what type of adverbials to use. For example:

The parrots were preening their feathers.

Early in the morning, the parrots were preening their feathers.

Remember:

- You can add fronted adverbials to answer the questions Where? When? How?
- Place a comma after each fronted adverbial.



The sun began to rise over a tropical rainforest. The sounds of different animals could be heard as they carried out their daily activities. A roaring waterfall cascaded down into the cool river. The sunlight sparkled and glittered on the water's surface. The sweet scents of tropical flowers drifted whilst insects went from

plant to plant. A butterfly flapped its wings whilst a blue frog watched. A silky black jaguar was sitting on a rock relaxing in the sun. The monkeys began to howl as they saw a spotted jaguar strolling through the water. The parrots began to flap their wings and took flight to escape the noise. The spotted jaguar lapped up some water and then disappeared into the undergrowth, looking for prey. The sun began to set.

A Parent's Guide to Terminology

In Years 3 and 4, your child will be taught to add fronted adverbials to sentences. This is a complicated name for something that is actually very easy! However, if your child doesn't yet have a secure knowledge of adverbs and adverbial phrases, it would be best to review these first.

Adverbs - These are words that give more information about verbs, adjectives, other adverbs and clauses. They often end in 'ly' but not always. For example:

The boy shouted **angrily**.

The sun is **extremely** bright.

The sloth moved very **slowly**.

Adverbial Phrase - This is when a group of words (a phrase) is used rather than a single adverb to modify clauses (they add more information about the main action taking place). For example:

The birds flew **through the sky**.

I went for a walk **early in the morning**.

The boy ate the chocolate **with a smile on his face**.

Fronted adverbial: A fronted adverbial is an adverb or an adverbial phrase that comes at the front of a sentence (it comes before the verb or action it is describing). It is always separated from the main clause with a comma. For example:

Inside the sunken ship, a shoal of fish swam.

Later in the evening, they sat down to watch television.

Nervously, she walked onto the stage.

When discussing fronted adverbials with your child, it is helpful to explain that fronted adverbials tell the reader *Where?* *When?* or *How?* something happens. This helps them to understand how to use them.

An easy way to practise this is with picture books and images. Use the question words **Where?** **When?** **How?** to generate a fronted adverbial. For example, you may ask your child:

Where is the man eating dinner?

To which, you may get the response:

At the table or **In the kitchen**

These adverbial phrases can then be added to the front of the sentence to make a fronted adverbial.

For a further explanation of the phrases above and more examples and activities try these Twinkl resources:

[Adverbs, Adverbial Phrases, Fronted Adverbials Lesson Teaching Pack](#)

[Fronted Adverbials Word Mat](#)

Year 3 and 4 Grammar: Fronted Adverbials

Learning From Home Activity Booklet Answers

Where Is It?

Below the waves, the fish swam quickly.

In the park, Jack went on the swings.

On the table, Sarah placed her book and pen.

In a forest, the monkeys swung from branch to branch.

On a rock, the mermaid watched ships passing by.

Behind the counter, the shopkeeper stood serving customers

Challenge!

Accept any fronted adverbial that is grammatically correct and explains where the event may have happened.

When Did It Happen?

After dinner, Sarah ate her delicious dessert.

Before school, John had to put his uniform on.

In December, many people celebrate Christmas.

In the evening sun, long shadows stretched across the ground.

Every year, I celebrate my birthday.

After a while, the rain cleared and the sun came out.

Challenge!

Accept any fronted adverbial that is grammatically correct and explains where the event may have happened.

How Did It Happen?

Like lightning, the boy ran through the park.

Suddenly, the sun disappeared and it began to rain.

Nervously, Jack and Sarah entered the haunted house.

With a smile, Hamsa opened his birthday present.

Fearfully, the fish swam away from the terrifying shark.

With great courage, the knight fought the mighty dragon.

With a wave of her wand, the witch cast a magical spell.

Year 3 and 4 Grammar: Fronted Adverbials

Learning From Home Activity Booklet Answers

Missing Commas

Early one morning, I went for a jog.

Nervously, Sameera started to sing on stage.

Beneath the crashing waves, the dolphins quickly swam.

From her window, the princess let down her hair.

In January, the weather is very cold.

With a loud roar, the T. rex chased the smaller dinosaur.

After lunch, the girl went to play in the garden.

Inside school, the children were working hard.

Challenge!

Accept any fronted adverbial that is grammatically correct and explains where the event may have happened.

Adding Adverbials

When checking your child's work, please accept any appropriate fronted adverbial that makes sense when added to the sentence with the correct use of a comma.. Here you will find some examples of the types of fronted adverbials that could have been used.

Early one morning, the sun began to rise over a tropical rainforest. **In a forest clearing**, the sounds of different animals could be heard as they carried out their daily activities. **Behind the animals**, a roaring waterfall cascaded down into the cool river. **Like stars in the sky**, the sunlight sparkled and glittered on the water's surface. **In the air**, the sweet scents of tropical flowers drifted whilst insects went from plant to plant. **On a leaf**, a butterfly flapped its wings whilst a blue frog watched. **Like a statue**, a silky black jaguar was sitting on a rock relaxing in the sun. **Suddenly**, the monkeys began to howl as they saw a spotted jaguar strolling through the water. **Anxiously**, the parrots began to flap their wings and took flight to escape the noise. **A short while later**, the spotted jaguar lapped up some water and then disappeared into the undergrowth, looking for prey. **Later in the day**, the sun began to set.