

Mastering Fronted Adverbials with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To use fronted adverbials to express time, place, and manner, and to punctuate them correctly with a comma.

Read the story about Kit the Fox and his woodland gadget workshop. Identify the fronted adverbials and complete the tasks to show your mastery of sentence structure.

In the bustling workshop, Kit the Fox tightened the final bolt on his latest invention. He was building a machine to organise his vast collection of puzzle pieces. Without a sound, he reached for his wrench. Beneath the ancient oak tree, his friends were waiting for the big reveal. At the stroke of midnight, Kit finally flipped the power switch. The machine whirred to life, sorting every single piece into perfect piles.

Word bank: cautiously · before dawn · in the bustling workshop · without a sound · at the stroke of midnight · beneath the ancient oak tree

1. Identify the fronted adverbial in the first sentence. Explain how you know it is a fronted adverbial. (2 marks)

2. Why does the author use a comma after the phrase 'Without a sound'? (2 marks)

3. Rewrite this sentence by moving the adverbial to the front: 'Kit checked his blueprints carefully.' (2 marks)

4. Compare the function of 'In the bustling workshop' and 'At the stroke of midnight'. Which one describes place and which describes time? (2 marks)

5. Justify why adding a fronted adverbial makes a piece of writing more descriptive for the reader. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed picture of Kit the Fox inside his workshop. Include one feature from the story, such as his puzzle-sorting machine, and write a sentence at the bottom of your drawing that starts with a fronted adverbial to describe what Kit is doing.



Extension challenge: Imagine Kit the Fox is building a new invention to help the other BookFlik characters. Write a short paragraph of 4-5 sentences describing his invention. You must include at least three different fronted adverbials (one for time, one for place, and one for manner). What might happen if the machine malfunctioned? Explain your thoughts in a separate sentence.