

Mastering Fronted Adverbials with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To identify and use fronted adverbials to express time, place, and manner in sentences, as required by the Grade 4 ELA curriculum.

Read the front of each card to see an example or definition. Flip the card mentally to check if you can identify the fronted adverbial and its type. Use these to help you write more descriptive sentences in your writing.

What is a fronted adverbial?

A word or phrase at the beginning of a sentence that describes the action, followed by a comma.

Identify the fronted adverbial: 'Without a sound, Max climbed the tree.'

Without a sound (Manner).

Identify the fronted adverbial: 'Every morning, Pip reads a new book.'

Every morning (Time).

Identify the fronted adverbial: 'Above the clouds, Nova watched the stars.'

Above the clouds (Place).

Why do we use a comma after a fronted adverbial?

To separate the adverbial phrase from the main clause of the sentence.

True or False: A fronted adverbial must always go at the end of a sentence.

False. It is placed at the front of the sentence.

Rewrite this sentence with a fronted adverbial of time: 'Ellie remembered the story yesterday.'

Yesterday, Ellie remembered the story.

Rewrite this sentence with a fronted adverbial of manner: 'Finn swam through the waves quickly.'

Quickly, Finn swam through the waves.

Rewrite this sentence with a fronted adverbial of place: 'Zara painted a portrait in the meadow.'

In the meadow, Zara painted a portrait.

Create a fronted adverbial for this sentence: '... , Bea buzzed around the garden.'

e.g., Happily, Bea buzzed around the garden.

Is 'Slowly' a fronted adverbial in 'Slowly, the lion crept forward'?

Yes, it describes the manner of the action and is at the front with a comma.

Which type of adverbial is 'In the distance'?

A fronted adverbial of place.