

Mastering Fronted Adverbials with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To identify, use, and punctuate fronted adverbials to enhance descriptive writing.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of fronted adverbials. Read the front, try to define or create the example, then check the answer on the back.

What is a fronted adverbial?

A word or phrase placed at the beginning of a sentence that describes the verb, telling us when, where, or how something happens.

Which punctuation mark must follow a fronted adverbial?

A comma.

Provide a fronted adverbial of time for: 'Kit the fox solved the puzzle.'

Yesterday, Kit the fox solved the puzzle.

Provide a fronted adverbial of place for: 'The lion slept in the shade.'

Under the giant oak tree, the lion slept in the shade.

Provide a fronted adverbial of manner for: 'Nova flew through the sky.'

Silently and gracefully, Nova flew through the sky.

Identify the fronted adverbial in this sentence: 'Without a sound, the monkey crept closer.'

Without a sound.

Rewrite this sentence with a fronted adverbial of frequency: 'Bea visits the flowers.'

Every single morning, Bea visits the flowers.

Why do writers use fronted adverbials?

To add variety to sentence structure, create suspense, or provide more detail about the setting or action.

Explain why the comma is essential after a fronted adverbial.

It separates the adverbial phrase from the main clause, ensuring the sentence is easy to read and grammatically clear.

Compare and contrast: How does starting a sentence with 'Suddenly' change the impact compared to starting with 'Slowly'?

'Suddenly' creates urgency and excitement, whereas 'Slowly' creates a calm, suspenseful, or deliberate tone.

Justify your answer: Is 'Quickly' a fronted adverbial in the sentence 'Quickly, he ran'?

Yes, because it is an adverb of manner placed at the front, followed by a comma, describing how the action was performed.

What might happen if you forget the comma after a fronted adverbial?

The reader may become confused, and the sentence structure becomes grammatically incorrect, losing the intended rhythm of the prose.