

An Afternoon in the Archive with Ellie

Learning objective: To identify and use fronted adverbials to improve writing cohesion and flow.

Read the passage carefully. Look out for the fronted adverbials—phrases that describe how, when, or where an action takes place, placed at the beginning of a sentence. Answer the questions below using full sentences.

Ellie the elephant carefully organised the ancient scrolls in the Great Library. Inside the dusty vault, she discovered a forgotten map of the stars. With a gentle trunk, she brushed away the cobwebs that had gathered over many decades. Suddenly, a bright light shone through the stained-glass window, illuminating the parchment. Without making a sound, Ellie began to study the mysterious symbols. Every single day, she dedicated her time to preserving history for future generations. As the sun began to set, she carefully rolled up the map and placed it back in its rightful spot. Because she was so methodical, Ellie knew exactly where every piece of history belonged. To ensure the safety of the collection, she locked the heavy iron door and hummed a contented tune. Throughout the night, the library remained peaceful and silent, keeping its secrets safe until the following morning. Ellie loved the quiet magic of the archive, knowing that every scroll told a story waiting to be rediscovered by a curious mind.

Word bank: fronted adverbial · comma · modify · sentence opener · time · place · manner

1. Identify two fronted adverbials from the text that indicate when an action is happening. (2 marks)

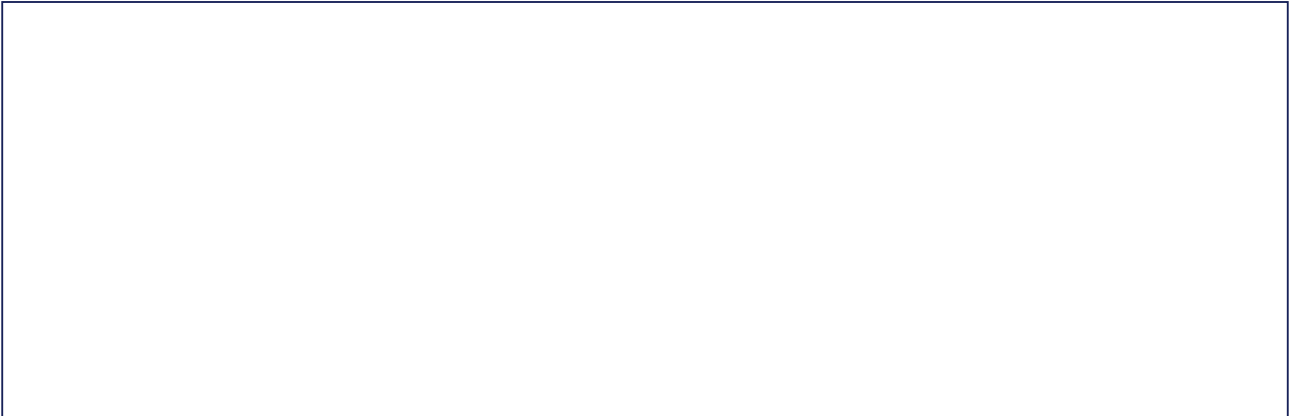
2. Where was Ellie when she found the forgotten map of the stars? (1 mark)

3. Why does the author use the phrase 'Without making a sound' at the start of the sentence, rather than at the end? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'Because she was so methodical' suggest about Ellie's personality? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the library is a good place for Ellie to spend her time? Explain your choice using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Ellie the elephant in a grand, ancient library, showing the moment the light shines through the stained-glass window onto the map.



Extension challenge: Rewrite the final paragraph of the story, adding three of your own fronted adverbials to change the mood of the scene.