

# Fronted Adverbials

## What is an adverbial?

An adverbial is a word, phrase or clause that is used, like an adverb, to modify a verb or a clause. Adverbs can be used as adverbials, but many other types of words, phrases and clauses can be used in this way, including prepositional phrases and subordinate clauses.

## What is a fronted adverbial?

When an adverbial is used at the beginning of a sentence, they are often called 'fronted adverbials'.



# Next Steps: Types of Fronted Adverbial

Fronted adverbials are used to describe...

the **time** something happens,

e.g. **Before sunrise**, Darius crept into the beast's cave.

the **frequency** (how often) something happens,

e.g. **Every so often**, Darius could hear the beast's ferocious snore.

the **place** something happens,

e.g. **At the back of the cave**, the terrifying creature began to stir.

the **manner** something happens,

e.g. **As quick as a flash**, Darius bounded behind a nearby rock.

the **possibility** (how likely) something will/has happen(ed),

e.g. **Almost certainly**, the deadly beast would find Darius.

Did you notice  
how the fronted  
adverbials were  
punctuated?



# Next Steps: Adding Commas

Every fronted adverbial word, phrase or clause needs to be followed by a comma to separate it from the main clause of the sentence. Where should the comma go in this fronted adverbial sentence?

**On Tuesday Year 3 are joining a BBC Live Lesson.**

**Slowly and carefully they released the badger back into the wild.**

**Out in the field the horse and her new foal galloped.**

# Fronted Adverbial Hunt

Can you spot the fronted adverbials in this piece of text? Do they describe the **time**, **frequency**, **manner**, **place** or **possibility** of the action in the main clause?

Against all the odds, Captain Curk got to his rocket before his oxygen supply ran out. Back in the safety of his shuttle, he removed his helmet and began to prepare for take-off. Suddenly, there was a loud crash at the shuttle door. The aliens must have caught up with him. Feeling intimidated, the captain quickly strapped himself into his seat as the door began to buckle. Almost certainly, the aliens would capture him if he didn't leave this planet right away. With a trembling finger, he pressed the launch button...10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...BLAST OFF!

Seconds later, Curk was in the air but something was wrong. The fuel tank gauge showed a dangerously low level of fuel. The extra-terrestrial creatures must have caused it to leak. Sputtering noisily, the spacecraft started to stall. What was the captain going to do?



# Writing Your Own Fronted Adverbials: ISPACE

Using ISPACE can help you remember six different ways to create fronted adverbials...



**-Ing word**

e.g. Shaking with fear, ...



**Simile**

e.g. Like a raging bull, ...



**Preposition**

e.g. Behind the clouds, ...



**Adverb**

e.g. Anxiously, ...



**Conjunction**

e.g. After he opened his eyes, ...



**-Ed word**

e.g. Exhausted, ...

# Practise Your Skills

Now, it's your turn.

Using the ISPACE acronym to help, can you invent a fronted adverbial to describe the time, frequency, manner, place or possibility of the action in this main clause?



\_\_\_\_\_, the audience gasped.

\_\_\_\_\_, the parachutist  
landed with a bump.

\_\_\_\_\_, the trees were  
covered with a fine dusting of snow.