

Fronted Adverbials

An adverbial is a phrase or clause that has been used like an adverb to add further information about the action in a sentence.

Adverbials are used to explain how (manner), when (time) or where (place) something happens. For example:

John went for a swim *every morning*. *Every morning*, John went for a swim.

She put her books away *quickly*. *Quickly*, she put her books away.

'Fronted' adverbials are 'fronted' because they have been moved to the front of the sentence, before the verb. In other words, fronted adverbials are words or phrases at the beginning of a sentence, used to describe the action that follows.

A. Underline the adverbial in each sentence ... the first one has been done for you!

1. He threw the ball against the wall.
2. The dinosaur stomped through the forest and roared a mighty roar.
3. The little girl jumped up and down like a yo-yo.
4. Finally, the plane landed at the airport.
5. An enormous boat sailed along the river Mersey.

B. Add a fronted adverbial for manner to each of the sentences below. You can use the suggested manner adverbials in the box below or you can think of some of your own. Remember, you must add a comma after the fronted adverbial.

With a huge grin on her face	Without warning	Completely exhausted
Nervously	Like tall giants	With some trepidation
		As quick as a flash

1. _____ the baby began to cry.
2. _____ the young boy changed into his PE kit.
3. _____ the mountains stood watching over the valley.
4. _____ Veronica blew out the candles on her birthday cake.
5. _____ Jason crossed the finishing line of the marathon.
6. _____ Imran went on the ghost train at the fair.
7. _____ Fiona stepped on stage to sing in front of the judges.

C. Oh dear! Somebody has written these fantastic sentences but has forgotten to add a comma after the fronted adverbial. Find where the comma should go in each sentence and, using a coloured pencil or pencil, add the comma to each one.

1. As the sun was setting an owl began to stir from its sleep.
2. With a mighty roar the lion leapt onto a rock and scared all the visitors at the zoo.
3. In a dark cave there lived a ferocious dragon.
4. In the summer of 2012 the London Olympic Games took place.
5. After a tiring night Mum finally got some sleep.
6. After the football match Rhianna went to the fish and chip shop with her dad.
7. With a huge smile on his face Peter received the gold medal for diving

D. Add a fronted adverbial for time to each of the sentences below.

1. _____ Sheila ate her breakfast.
2. _____ Jack cleaned his teeth and got ready for bed.
3. _____ we went to Spain for a holiday.
4. _____ we ate a delicious dessert.
5. _____ Ryan did some warm-up exercises.
6. _____ Ben and Holly ate popcorn.
7. _____ Jill started to cry.
8. _____ Dad burnt his hand.
9. _____ the gorilla beat his strong chest.
10. _____ the witch flew on her broomstick.
11. _____ the mountains stood watching over the valley.
12. _____ Veronica blew out the candles on her birthday cake.
13. _____ Jason crossed the finishing line of the marathon.

E. Look at this picture taken of the London marathon.



Using some of the fronted adverbials in the table below, write a description of this picture. The first sentence has been done for you. Remember to always place a comma after the fronted adverbial to separate it from the main clause.

Time	Place	Manner
On Sunday 23rd September	Behind the metal barriers	With a determined look
As he was running	Below the beating sun	Feeling exhausted
Whilst the crowd cheered	On their T-shirts	Without slowing

On Sunday 23rd of September, thousands of people hit the streets of London to take part in the annual London Marathon.