

Y3,4 – Wednesday – Grammar

LO: I can use commas after fronted adverbials.

In previous lessons this year, we've learnt about using adverbials to give more information. An adverbial tells us: **how**, **when** or **where** something takes place.

At its simplest, an adverbial could be an adverb:

*The dog ran down the street **quickly**.*

In this sentence, the adverbial is *quickly* and it is telling us **how** the dog ran down the street.

We can play around with where in the sentence the adverbial goes:

*The dog ran **quickly** down the street. The dog **quickly** ran down the street.*

To write this sentence using a fronted adverbial, we simply put the adverbial at the beginning of the sentence:

***Quickly**, the dog ran down the street.*

However, notice that we need to put a comma after the adverbial.

We can also make the use phrases instead of single words to create adverbials:

***As quick as a flash**, the dog ran down the street.*

***Like a bolt of lightning**, the dog ran down the street.*

***Running as quickly as it could**, the dog ran down the street.*

These adverbials all tell us **how** the dog is running. They could tell us **when** the dog is running:

***As soon as it saw its owner**, the dog ran down the street.*

***When it saw the butcher's shop was open**, the dog ran down the street.*

An adverbial can also tell us where something is happening. The dog sentence doesn't need a when adverbial as we already know the dog is on the street. Here's a sentence that does:

***Deep underground**, the prisoners were tunneling their way to freedom.*

***High up in the tree**, the children ate their lunch and watched the teachers searching frantically for them.*

Activity 1: Each sentence is missing a comma after the fronted adverbial. I'd like the children to rewrite the sentences in their books. They then need to put a comma after the fronted adverbial.

1. Lazily the girl slouched on the sofa and watched television.
2. With her hands shaking the girl opened the old wooden door of the haunted house.
3. As soon as the boy woke up he got dressed and started his home learning.
4. In the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean a tiny boat tried to find its way to shore.
5. At the stroke of midnight all the lights went off and the city was plunged into darkness.
6. Deep inside the cave the divers had located the treasure and were beginning to get very excited.

Activity 2: Write at least three sentences using fronted adverbials. I've put some images from some of my favourite animated films for you to use as a stimulus. However, you can write them about anything you like.





