

Fronted Adverbials

A 'how-to' guide.

What Is an Fronted Adverbial?

Before reading this PowerPoint, it is helpful to know the following terms:

Adverb

Main clause

Subordinate
clause

If these terms are not familiar to you, there is an earlier PowerPoint on the website which can be read first!

Fronted Adverbials

What is an adverbial?

An adverbial is a word, phrase or clause that is used, like an adverb, to change 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'.

This sounds tricky, but it gets clearer!

Fronted adverbials are used to describe...

the **time** something happens,

e.g. **On Wednesday**, the class has Maths first.

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

e.g. **Every so often**, we have visitors in school.

the **place** something happens,

e.g. **At the top of the field**, we have the Daily Mile track.

the **manner** something happens,

e.g. **As quick as a cheetah**, the children ran around the track.

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

e.g. **Almost certainly**, we will use the whiteboard today.

Fronted adverbials use a comma to mark a pause after them.

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.

This fronted adverbial needs a comma after *carefully*.

Slowly and carefully, they picked up the injured bird from the ground.

This fronted adverbial describes the **manner**.

If it is taken away, the sentence still makes sense as:
They picked up the injured bird from the ground.

This fronted adverbial needs a comma after *Tuesday*.

On Tuesday, Connaught are welcoming
some very special visitors.

This fronted adverbial describes the time (when).

If it is taken away, the sentence still makes sense as:
Connaught are welcoming some very special visitors.

This fronted adverbial needs a comma after *doubt*.

Without a doubt,*Toffee* was going to beat the children in a running race.

This fronted adverbial describes the possibility.

If it is taken away, the sentence still makes sense as:
Toffee was going to beat the children in a running race.

This one is a little different.

Many centuries ^{there} ago lived a powerful
king and queen.

This one **wouldn't** need a comma.

If the rest of the sentence doesn't make sense on its own, **don't** separate the fronted adverbial!

We could change the sentence slightly to **create** a fronted adverbial by adding 'there'.