

Spot the Fronted Adverbials

A fronted adverbial is a word, phrase or clause at the beginning of a sentence that gives more details about the time, place, frequency, possibility or manner of the action in the main clause. We always use a comma after a fronted adverbial to demarcate it from the main clause.

1. Can you place a comma after the fronted adverbial in these sentences?

For example:

After the storm, the people of the town cleared up the damage from the flooding.

- a) Baffled by the mathematical problem the professor felt frustrated.
- b) Under the bridge the misunderstood troll waited patiently for his goat friends.
- c) Once a year the people put on their costumes and partied at the carnival.
- d) Before the holidays the Y6 pupils had a farewell celebration at their junior school.
- e) Almost certainly Eva's team would win the upcoming sports day.

2. Now, can you spot all of the fronted adverbials in this extract? Underline them and add in commas in the appropriate places.

Through the bushes Kian searched and searched. Under all of the rocks he hunted but he just couldn't find the potion. He sat down with his head in his hands. Feeling depressed a drop of water rolled down his cheek. Kian reached up to dry his eyes and realised the drop was not a tear. Confused he looked up and saw exactly what he was looking for...the magical potion! It was dangling from a tree in a potion bottle. Like a jack-in-the-box Kian leapt up and grabbed it. As Kian hurriedly ran back his feet hurt and his lungs felt like they might explode. Inside his hands he held the one thing that could save everyone in his village.

3. Now, write two fronted adverbial sentences of your own, where the fronted adverbials describe the **time** and **place** of the action in your main clauses.

time _____

place _____

Spot the Fronted Adverbials Answers

1. Can you place a comma after the fronted adverbial in these sentences?

- a) Baffled by the mathematical problem, the professor felt frustrated.
- b) Under the bridge, the misunderstood troll waited patiently for his goat friends.
- c) Once a year, the people put on their costumes and partied at the carnival.
- d) Before the holidays, the Y6 pupils had a farewell celebration at their junior school.
- e) Almost certainly, Eva's team would win the upcoming sports day.

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Through the bushes, Kian searched and searched. Under all of the rocks, he hunted but he just couldn't find the potion. He sat down with his head in his hands. Feeling depressed, a drop of water rolled down his cheek. Kian reached up to dry his eyes and realised the drop was not a tear. Confused, he looked up and saw exactly what he was looking for...the magical potion! It was dangling from a tree in a potion bottle. Like a jack-in-the-box, Kian leapt up and grabbed it. As Kian hurriedly ran back, his feet hurt and his lungs felt like they might explode. Inside his hands, he held the one thing that could save everyone in his village.

3. Now, write five fronted adverbial sentences of your own, where the fronted adverbials describe the time, place, frequency, possibility or manner of the action in your main clauses.

Various answers possible.

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1. Can you **place a comma after the fronted adverbial** in these sentences? In each of the boxes, decide whether the fronted adverbial adds more detail about the **time, place, frequency, possibility** or **manner** of the action in the main clause.

For example: After the storm, the people of the town cleared up the damage from the flooding.

- a) Baffled by the mathematical problem the professor felt frustrated.
- b) Under the bridge the misunderstood troll waited patiently for his goat friends.
- c) Once a year the people put on their costumes and partied at the carnival.
- d) Before the holidays the Y6 pupils had a farewell celebration at their junior school.
- e) Almost certainly Eva's team would win the upcoming sports day.

2. Now, can you spot all of the fronted adverbials in this extract? Underline them and add in commas in the appropriate places.

Searching frantically Kian hoped it wasn't too late to save his people. Through the bushes Kian searched and searched. Under rocks and inside caves he scoured although he just couldn't find the ever-life potion. He sat down with his head in his hands. Depressed and disheartened a drop of water rolled down his cheek. Kian reached up to dry his eyes and realised the drop was not a tear. Feeling utterly confused he looked up and saw exactly what he was looking for...the ever-life potion! It was dangling from a tree in a potion bottle tied with a golden ribbon. Like a jack-in-the-box Kian leapt up and grabbed the bottle. As Kian hurriedly ran back his feet hurt and his lungs felt like they might explode. Inside his hands, he held the one thing that could save everyone in his village.

3. Now, write five fronted adverbial sentences of your own, where the fronted adverbials describe the **time**, **place**, **frequency**, **possibility** or **manner** of the action in your main clauses.

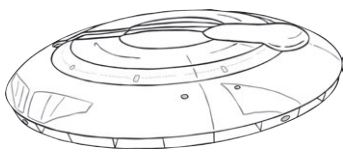
time _____

place _____

frequency _____

possibility _____

manner _____



Spot the Fronted Adverbials Answers

1. Can you place a comma after the fronted adverbial in these sentences? In each of the boxes, decide whether the fronted adverbial adds more detail about the **time**, **place**, **frequency**, **possibility** or **manner** of the action in the main clause.

a) Baffled by the mathematical problem, the professor felt frustrated.

manner

b) Under the bridge, the misunderstood troll waited patiently for his goat friends.

place

c) Once a year, the people put on their costumes and partied at the carnival.

frequency

d) Before the holidays, the Y6 pupils had a farewell celebration at their junior school.

time

e) Almost certainly, Eva's team would win the upcoming sports day.

possibility

2. Now, can you spot all of the fronted adverbials in this extract? Underline them and add in commas in the appropriate places.

Searching frantically, Kian hoped it wasn't too late to save his people. Through the bushes, Kian searched and searched. Under rocks and inside caves, he scoured although he just couldn't find the ever-life potion. He sat down with his head in his hands. Depressed and disheartened, a drop of water rolled down his cheek. Kian reached up to dry his eyes and realised the drop was not a tear. Feeling utterly confused, he looked up and saw exactly what he was looking for...the ever-life potion! It was dangling from a tree in a potion bottle tied with a golden ribbon. Like a jack-in-the-box, Kian leapt up and grabbed the bottle. As Kian hurriedly ran back, his feet hurt and his lungs felt like they might explode. Inside his hands, he held the one thing that could save everyone in his village.

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1. Match up the fronted adverbials with the correct main clause making sure you add in the correct punctuation including a comma in the correct place. In the box, write what the fronted adverbial is describing.

several hours later

surely

the boy waited outside the headteacher's office

there was a mountain of books to mark

every single day

on the teacher's table

we arrived at the camp site

my sister ruins my model I have just made

with a nervous look on his face

he wasn't going to take that man's wallet

Sentence	time / place / frequency / possibility / manner?

2. Now, can you spot all of the fronted adverbials in this extract? Underline them and add in commas in the appropriate places. Then, write a list of what the fronted adverbials are describing in the correct order.

For days now Kian had been praying there was still hope to save his people. Through the bushes Kian searched and searched. Under rocks and inside caves he scoured although he just couldn't find the ever-life potion. With his head in his hands he sat down. Depressed and disheartened a drop of water rolled down his cheek. Reaching up to dry his eyes he

realised the drop was not a tear. Feeling utterly confused he looked up and saw exactly what he was looking for...the ever-life potion! It was dangling from a tree in a potion bottle tied with a golden ribbon. Without delay Kian leapt up and grabbed the bottle. As Kian hurriedly ran back his feet hurt and his lungs felt like they might explode. Inside his hands he held the one thing that could save everyone in his village. Within a few minutes Kian was nearly at the village excited to tell everyone what he had found. Knowing what this could do to the villagers a small smile began to creep across Kian's face.

3. Now, write five fronted adverbial sentences of your own, where the fronted adverbials describe the **time**, **place**, **frequency**, **possibility** or **manner** of the action in your main clauses.

Time

Place

Frequency

Possibility

Manner

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Sentence	time / place / frequency / possibility / manner?
Several hours later, we arrived at the camp site.	
With a nervous look on his face, the boy waited outside the headteacher's office.	
Surely, he wasn't going to take that man's wallet.	
Every single day, my sister ruins my model I have just made.	
On the teacher's table, there was a mountain of books to mark.	

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frequency	place	place	manner	manner	manner
manner	time	manner	place	time	possibility

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