Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

FRONT FIRST, COMMA NEXT

Use commas after fronted adverbials

About 45 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

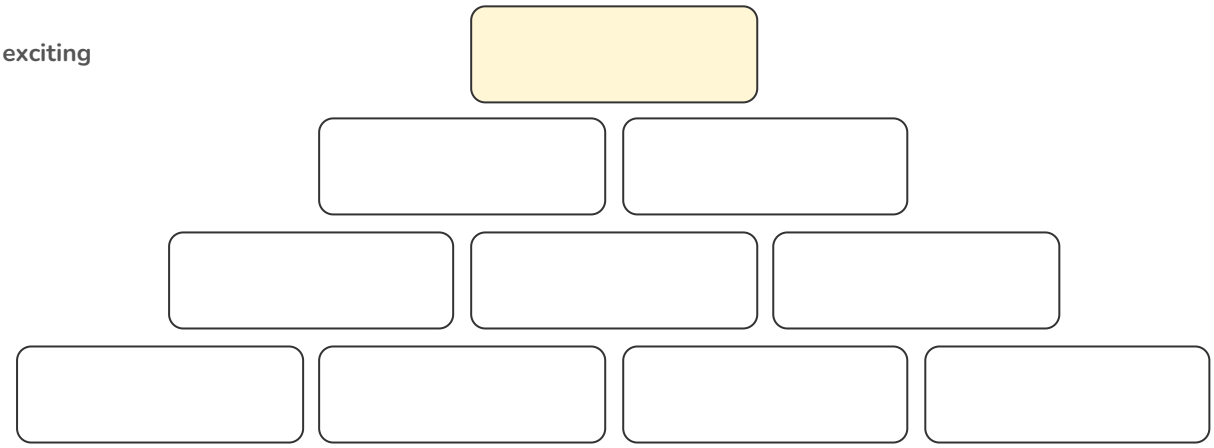
Task A

Cut out and rank these openers for a spooky story.

rank these story openers from most to least **exciting**

Silently, | In the dark cave, | At midnight, | Under the old bed, | Like a whisper,
After lunch, | Behind the door, | In the morning, | With shaky hands, | Suddenly,

Most exciting



Why did you put your top choice at the top?

.....

.....

WHEN WHERE HOW

Sort openers to see how they change a sentence.

Key words

fronted adverbial: a start phrase that tells more

verb: an action or doing word

where: tells the place of action

comma: a pause mark after the opener

when: tells the time of action

how: tells the way of action

Task B

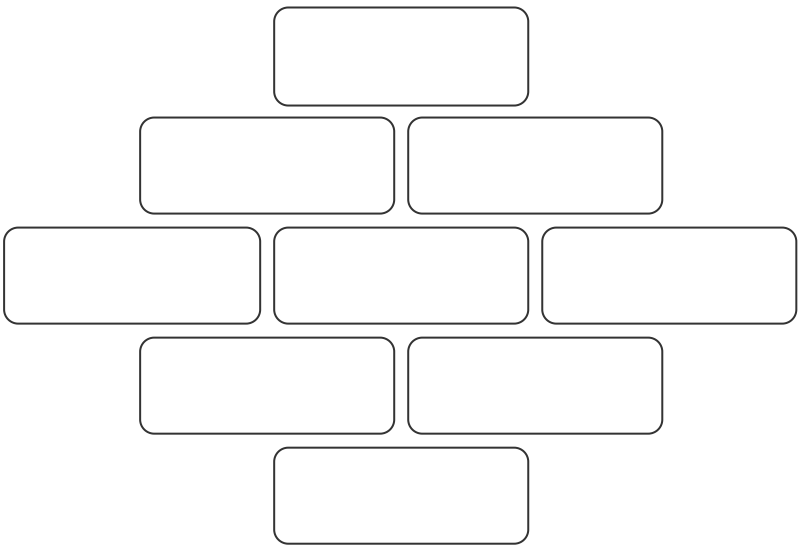
Cut out and rank these openers in a diamond shape.

which sentence starter is most **useful** for a story

Cut out the cards.

At sunset, the bell rang.	Silently, the door opened.	Under the table, the cat hid.
After tea, we read.	Like a rocket, he ran.	In the morning, we woke up.
With a grin, she waved.	Your own idea	Your own idea

▲ Most important



▼ Least important

Why did you put your top card at the top?

.....

.....

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CHAT AND FIX

Practise commas with a partner in speech and talk.

Task C

/3

Fill the gaps using a comma after each fronted adverbial.

Student A I wrote: the dog barked in the park. Can you help?

Student B .....

.....

Student A Where is the **front** bit?

Student B .....

.....

Student A Where does the **comma** go?

Student B .....

.....

Task D

Talk with your partner and agree together.

- Which **opener** do you like best? Why?
- When do we need a **comma**?
- How does a **front** opener change a sentence?

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MAP IT TRUE

Check what you know about fronted adverbials.

Task E

/4

Complete the word map about fronted adverbials.

Definition (in my own words)

Characteristics

fronted adverbial

Examples

At night, owls hoot.

Non-examples

The dog barked loudly.

Task F

Example done for you

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Read and tick true or false.

Statement	True	False
A fronted adverbial comes at the **front** of a sentence.	✓	
You must put a **comma** after a fronted adverbial.		
The word Silently, can be a **fronted** adverbial.		
In the park the dog barked needs no **comma**.		
A fronted adverbial tells **when**, where or how.		

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USE IT WELL

Fix writing and make your own exciting openers.

Task G

/4

Read the story then answer a), b) and c).

A 7-year-old pupil wrote a short story. Every sentence starts with a **fronted** opener but has no comma. She wrote: Suddenly the door opened. In the morning we went out. Under the stairs a box shook. The teacher asked for varied **openers** with correct commas.

a. a) List **TWO** fronted adverbials from her story. **(2)**

.....

.....

b. b) **Rewrite** her first sentence with the correct comma. **(1)**

.....

c. c) **Explain** why that comma is needed. **(1)**

.....

(Total: 4 marks)

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FRONT FIRST, COMMA NEXT

Task H

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Climb the ladder from easy to tricky.

Remember Name **ONE** thing a fronted adverbial can tell.

Understand Say where the **comma** goes.

Apply Add a **comma** to: After tea we read.

Analyse Spot the **error**: Quietly the mouse, hid.

Evaluate Choose the **best** opener for: ___, the torch flickered.

Create Write your own **sentence** starting with At midnight,

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can spot a fronted adverbial

I can use a comma after it

I can write my own openers

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Answer sheet: Front First, Comma Next

Task A

Answers will vary.

Task B

Answers will vary.

Task C

1. Student B: Yes! Try: In the park, the dog barked.
2. Student B: In the park is at the front.
3. Student B: After park, before the dog.

Task D

Answers will vary.

Task E

Definition: A word or phrase at the front of a sentence that tells more about the verb.
Characteristics: starts the sentence, needs a comma after it, tells when, where or how
Examples: At night, owls hoot. Silently, the door opened. Under the table, the cat hid.
Non-examples: The dog barked loudly. Owls hoot at night. The cat hid.

Task F

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. True

Task G

a) Suddenly; In the morning; Under the stairs (any two) (2)
b) Suddenly, the door opened. (1)
c) It separates the fronted adverbial from the rest. (1)

Task H

1. When, where or how.
2. Just after the fronted adverbial.
3. After tea, we read.
4. Comma is in the wrong place. It should be: Quietly, the mouse hid.
5. In the dark cave: it tells where and adds mood.
6. e.g. At midnight, the clock chimed loudly.

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