

Parent's Guide to Adverbs and Adverbial Phrases



In Years 3 and 4, your child will be taught to add fronted adverbials to sentences. This is a complicated, technical name for something that is actually quite easy to do. The following information may help you, to support your child in understanding this concept. The children will need to know and understand the terms, to build on this knowledge later in the school.

These videos may also be useful:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18sXFjb0TFc&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3hR3BHpeho>

Adverbs - These are words that give more information about verbs, adjectives, other adverbs and clauses. They often end in 'ly' but not always. For example:

The boy shouted **angrily**.

The sun is **extremely** bright.

The sloth moved very **slowly**.

Adverbial Phrase - This is when a group of words (a phrase) is used rather than a single adverb to modify clauses (they add more information about the main action taking place). For example:

The birds flew **through the sky**.

I went for a walk **early in the morning**.

The boy ate the chocolate **with a smile on his face**.

Fronted adverbial: A fronted adverbial is an adverb or an adverbial phrase that comes at the front of a sentence (it comes before the verb or action it is describing). It is always separated from the main clause with a comma. For example:

Inside the sunken ship, a shoal of fish swam.

Later in the evening, they sat down to watch television.

Nervously, she walked onto the stage.

When discussing fronted adverbials with your child, it is helpful to explain that fronted adverbials tell the reader **Where?** **When?** or **How?** something happens. This helps them to understand how to use them.

An easy way to practise this is with picture books and images. Use the question words **Where?** **When?** **How?** to generate a fronted adverbial. For example, you may ask your child:

Where is the man eating dinner?

To which, you may get the response:

At the table or **In the kitchen**

These adverbial phrases can then be added to the front of the sentence to make a fronted adverbial.