

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.

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 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.