

Pupil book answers

Grammar 4

Schofield & Sims Grammar and Punctuation

Commas after fronted adverbials

Remember

When an **adverbial** is placed at the start or front of a sentence, a **comma** is used to clearly separate the adverbial from the main sentence.

Immediately after dinner, she went to the study.

Cautiously, she took the box from the drawer.

In the box, she found the ring.



Try it

- 1 Complete each sentence by adding a comma after the fronted adverbial.

From somewhere in the distance, a voice was singing.

Without warning, there was a sudden rush of water.

Just a few metres above them, there was a spaceship.

Later that night, the wizards gathered for a meeting.

Shortly after the war, William started a new business.

With great enthusiasm, the children set to work building a den.



- 2 Rewrite each sentence so that it begins with the adverbial. Punctuate it correctly.

She watched and waited anxiously. Anxiously, she watched and waited.

The lion paused for a moment. For a moment, the lion paused.

They made their way home wearily. Wearily, they made their way home.

We warmed up before the game. Before the game, we warmed up.

He closed the door without a word. Without a word, he closed the door.

Sentence practice

Write **two** sentences about a stormy night. Start each sentence with a **fronted adverbial**.

On a dark and stormy night, a man was travelling home. In the distance, he heard a rumble of thunder.

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If the pupils have difficulty with this, ask them to first identify the main clause – the part that makes sense by itself – and then to underline the extra phrase added at the start of the sentence. The comma should then separate the two parts of the sentence.

Ask the pupils to read the sentences aloud so they can hear the effect of moving the adverbial and adding the comma.

The sentences should begin with capital letters and end with full stops, as well as having commas after the fronted adverbial.

These are just examples of sentences starting with suitable adverbials. Check that both sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop as well as having commas after the fronted adverbial.