

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? 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.