

Fact sheet Level 2

Sentences

Different ways of starting sentences

Adverbial starts

There are lots of ways of starting sentences. All these sentences can be added to the front of this "she decided to have her ears pierced".

What do the phrases have in common?

They all start with a capital letter and end with a comma. They don't make sense on their own, and lack a main clause. Each of the phrases tells you something about the verb.

Where

At the door,
By the bus stop,
Over the way,
In the other room,
In the supermarket,
Back at the ranch,

When

By 11 o'clock,
While she was on holiday,
At the last moment,
When she was thirteen,
Before breakfast,
During the discussion,

Why

Because she was bored,
In response,
As a result of the conversation,
In order to look older,
As a gesture of defiance,
To spend the last of her money,

How

Quickly,
With great difficulty,
Without hesitation,
Reluctantly,
Surprisingly,
With some misgivings,

There are other adverbial starts you could use from different categories:

To compare:

- In the same way,
- Like his brother,
- Similarly,
- As before,

To qualify what you say, e.g. express a reservation:

- Despite his misgivings
- Although he was tired,
- Except for one absentee,
- To some extent

To be provisional:

- If only he agreed,
- Believing his was right,
- If all goes well,
- Hopefully,

Task:

Suggest some ways to complete these sentences with the adverbial phrases above, e.g. If all goes according to plan, we will arrive by midnight.