

# Sentence Openers

**Writing Assignment:** Add different sentence openers to your key word outline summaries and narrative stories.

**Minimum Rule:** Each one in every paragraph as possible; no more than two of the same in a row.

# Opener #1: Subject

- This is the simplest opener for a sentence. Use the subject as the beginning of the sentence.
- Examples:
  - **The tortoise** felt confident and challenged the hare to a race.
  - **He** was a quaint little man with a strange green suit.

# Opener #2: Prepositional

- Begin your sentence with a prepositional phrase.
- Examples:
  - **In a flurry**, the shocked hare dashed toward the finish line.
  - **Up above** the village, Peter sat and wondered how to relieve his boredom.
  - **Since** last year, killer bees have been found as far north as Arizona.

## Opener #3: “ly” words

- Begin your sentence with an adverb. See adverb list.
- Examples:
  - **Calmly** the triumphant tortoise placed his foot over the finish line.

## Opener #4: “ing” words

- Use an “ing” as a participle at the beginning of a sentence. (Some “ing” words are used as gerunds and these are considered subject openers).
- Participle example:
  - **Shrieking** with fear, Peter scrambled to evade the rabid wolf.
- Gerund example:
  - **Singing** was her greatest joy.

# Opener #5: Clausal

- Clause openers include the words when, while, as, since, if, although, because)
- Examples:
  - **Although** she was hungry vanity overcame her and she began to sing.
  - **Since** the tortoise knew the hare to be lazy he boldly made a challenge.
  - **Because** killer bees are hard to contain danger is rapidly increasing.
  - **If** you use a variety of sentence openers, your writing will improve.

## Opener #6: VSS (very short sentence)

- A very short sentence is 5 words or less.
- Examples:
  - “Thief!” he screeched.
  - Call me Ishmael. (*Moby Dick*)
  - The lion bellowed and thundered.

## Opener #7: “ed” (advanced)

- Begin your sentence with an “ed” word.
- Example:
  - **Deceived** by the cunning fox, the narcissistic crow began her song.