Adding Sentence Openers

Name: _____   Due Date: _____

The most common way that writers structure a sentence is by starting with the subject first.

   Examples: <u>Jack</u> fell down. <u>Josie</u> scrambled to get help. <u>Mom</u> arrived quickly with the first aid kit.

However, beginning every sentence with the subject creates monotonous, boring writing. Varying your sentence openers adds interest, creates tension, emphasizes a key element, or helps connect or transition between ideas.

<u>Punctuation Note</u>: A sentence opener (an introductory word, phrase, or clause) is typically followed by a comma.

Directions: *Add sentence openers to each sentence as directed. Carefully capitalize and punctuate each sentence. Don't forget to add a comma after each opener.*

Sentence Opener #1: ADVERB Adding an adverb to the beginning of a sentence changes the rhythm of the sentence and places emphasis on the *how*, *when*, or *where* of an action.

Example: *Slowly*, Jack fell down. (*slowly* describes how Jack *fell*)

1. The stream gurgled across the rocks.

   _____

   _____

2. Daisy bellowed, "Who stole my red shoes?"

   _____

   _____

Sentence Opener #2: PAST PARTICIPLE A past participle is a verb that ends in -ed that does the job of an adjective: it describes a noun. It is often used to emphasize the emotion of the subject.

Examples: *Frightened*, Josie scrambled to get help. (*frightened* describes *Josie*)
          Frightened by his fall, Josie scrambled to get help.

3. The runner crossed the finish line.

   _____

   _____

Sentence Opener #3: PRESENT PARTICIPLE A present participle also describes a noun, but it ends with -ing.

Examples: *Sprinting*, Mom arrived quickly with the first aid kit. (*sprinting* describes *Mom*)
          Sprinting down the hill, Mom arrived quickly with the first aid kit.

4. Carol twirled in the golden sunshine.

   _____

   _____

Sentence Opener #4: PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE(S) Prepositions show the relationship between one word and another word in a sentence. Many prepositions fit in this sentence: "The mouse went _____ the box(es)."

dog *under* my bed   money *on* the table   trampoline *over* there   stretch *before* practice   eat *after* work

Prepositional phrases always begin with a preposition and end with a noun or pronoun. Sentences can open with one or more prepositional phrases.

Examples: *With* haste, Josie scrambled to get help.
         In the blink *of* an eye, Mom arrived with the first aid kit.

5. My sister flipped 100 pancakes.

   _____

   _____

6. The husky gnawed on its bone.

   _____

   _____

Sentence Opener #5: SUBORDINATING CLAUSE A subordinating clause is like an "almost" sentence. It has its own subject and its own verb, but it does not express a complete thought.

Because <u>Steve</u> <u>wanted</u> one…   While <u>we</u> <u>wait</u> for the bus…   Before the <u>timer</u> <u>rings</u>…   Although <u>I</u> <u>began</u> late…

Since subordinating clauses do not express a complete thought on their own, they must be attached to another complete sentence. For this reason, they make great sentence openers!

Examples: When the <u>skateboard</u> <u>rolled</u> backward, Jack fell down.
         As <u>Jack</u> <u>screamed</u>, Josie scrambled to get help.

7. Christmas Day had finally arrived.

   _____

   _____

8. The kitten purred softly.

   _____

   _____

Parent Checklist: *Please evaluate your student's work and assist with corrections.*

☐   The student has added a sentence opener of the correct type to each sentence.
☐   The student has added a comma after each sentence opener.
☐   The student has used proper spelling, capitalization, and punctuation when copying the rest of the sentence.

Parent Signature: _____   Date _____