

# Spectacular Sentence Starters!

Learning Objective:

**understand how to develop the quality of our writing with varied sentence starters.**

Lesson outcomes:

**ALL:** will understand the different ways to start sentences.

**Most:** will begin to competently apply varied sentence starters to their work.

**Some:** will create original pieces to demonstrate their knowledge of sentence starters.

**Student: “How can I make the openings of my sentences spectacular?”**

**Teacher: “Well ... just remember ...”**

“clever people ask perfectly dazzling questions!”

Clause: start with the subordinate clause

While walking to the shop, Molly chatted with her friends.

Preposition: start with where the character/ action is

In her bedroom, Molly chatted with her friends on the computer.

Adverb: start with an -ly word

Happily, Molly chatted with her friends.

Pronoun: start with an alternative to a name

She chatted with her friends.

Device: start with simile or onomatopoeia

Like a whirlwind, Molly chatted with her friends on the computer, tidied her room and completed her homework.

Squeaking with delight, Molly chatted with her friends.

Question: ask a question

Should Molly chat with her friends or complete her homework?

Kevin walked to the shop.

Using the ideas discussed look at how the 'boring' sentence above has been made better.

1. Because he was hungry, Kevin was walking to the shop.
2. In the sticky, hot shop, Kevin filled her basket.
3. Slowly and carefully, Kevin made the journey to the local shop.
4. He was warm and uncomfortable but Kevin was still determined to go to the shop.
5. As sweat ran down his face like tiny beads of clear glass, Kevin realised he was half way to the shop.
6. Why had Kevin chosen to walk in this heat?

## Task 1

Re-write the sentences below using the new rules:

1. The tree was bending in the breeze.

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2. The girl was very tired.

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3. He was running very fast because it was raining.

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4. High up in the sky the sun was shining.

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5. Beautifully blue, the sea twinkled like a thousand stars.

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6. As the thunder roared the lightning rolled across the sky.

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**Challenge: Can you complete more than one sentence for each one? Which version is better and why?**

Now, write four original sentences of your own. Be ready to share.

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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## Challenge task!

Write a paragraph detailing the events of your day so far. However, each sentence must begin with a different starter and you must use each starter more than once within a 200 word limit!

## PEER Assessment

1. Swap work with a partner and take it in turns to read your sentences aloud.
2. Identify the sentence starters they have used and how successfully they used them.
3. Identify which sentence starters they have not used/used the least.

## Return work

Rewrite 2 of your sentences with your PEER's feedback in mind.

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## Task 2

Work in **groups**.

Each group will choose tasks to complete from the grid below.

Each task is worth between 10 and 30 points. The tasks each group completes must **total 30 points!**

Good luck!

Create a worksheet for your classmates to complete to solidify their knowledge of sentence starters. <b>10 points</b>	Design a quiz using PowerPoint for the class to complete to test their knowledge of sentence starters. <b>20 points</b>	Create a board game that your classmates can play to test their knowledge of sentence starters. <b>30 points</b>
Design a poster that could be placed in your classroom to display the rules we use to form strong sentence starters. <b>20 points</b>	Create 3 homework tasks (whatever you choose) for your classmates to complete to embed their knowledge of sentence starters. Each task must take 20 minutes to complete. <b>30 points</b>	Rewrite the synopsis of a book using only one sentence starter. Write a 10 sentence explanation of the effect this has on the quality of the synopsis. <b>10 points</b>
Write a story that uses all 6 sentence starters. Each group member must write a paragraph of 250 words without telling the other group members what they are writing about. When you put your story together, it will be completely random! <b>30 points</b>	Create your own memory aid to remember the 6 key sentence starters. A mnemonic; an acronym; a rhyme ... the choice is yours! <b>10 points</b>	Take a well-known Fairy tale or myth/legend and turn it into a 10 section storyboard. Use all 6 sentence starters at least once to detail the happenings across the board. <b>20 points</b>

## PEER Assessment

1. Swap work with another group and read their sentences aloud.
2. Can you work out which tasks they have done?
3. What has the group done well (remember to focus on sentence starters)?
4. What could the group have done better (remember to focus on sentence starters)?
5. Tell the group the feedback.
6. Write down your own feedback below.