

Different Ways to Start Sentences

Students should use different ways to start sentences. Teaching students to use a variety of sentence structures can greatly improve their writing. Begin by having students write a short passage. This can be on any topic including narratives or nonfiction. Next have students use highlighters to underline the first word in each sentence. Students will be surprised that their sentences often begin with the same words repeated over and over.

Go over some ways to begin sentences other than the typical subject-verb structure. Then have students rewrite their passages making sure that every sentence begins with a different word. Turn the activity into a challenge by seeing how many different methods they can use to begin sentences in their passage. Remind students that their passages must make sense and flow while using different structures.

What's Included

Printable #1 - This practice starts with the basic sentence – David ran to catch the bus. Students use the eight different ways to start sentences to change up the sentence.

Printable #2 – This is an answer key for Printable #1. Note that answers will vary.

Printable #3 – This is the same printable as Printable #1 with the practice sentence omitted. If students need additional practice add a basic sentence to the middle of the printable.

Printable #4 – This practice uses the same basic sentence – David ran to catch the bus – to practice eight additional methods for starting sentences. This more advanced page requires students to understand sentence several sentence structures. You may need to preteach or review these sentence structures before assigning this page. Students must know the following:

- interjections
- clauses [subordinating conjunctions]
- coordinating conjunctions
- transitional words and phrases
- infinite phrases
- appositives

Printable #5 – This is a sample answer key for Printable #4. Notice that I changed the basic sentence in some of the examples to make the sentences flow.

Printable #6 – This practice omits the example sentence. You can add any basic sentence in the middle of this printable for additional practice.

Begin with a verb ending with -ing.

Begin with a prepositional phrase.

Begin with a verb ending with -ed

Begin with an adjective.

Ways to Begin Sentences



David ran to catch the bus.

Begin with an adverb.

Begin with a phrase that tells where.

Begin with a sound word.

Begin with a phrase that tells when.

Begin with a verb ending with -ing.

Gagging for breath, David ran to catch the bus.

Begin with an adjective.

Anxious about being late for school, David ran to catch the bus.

Down Main Street, David ran to catch the bus.

Begin with a phrase that tells where.

Begin with a prepositional phrase.

With his backpack flopping on his back, David ran to catch the bus.

Ways to Begin Sentences



Swoosh, David ran to catch the bus.

Begin with a sound word.

Begin with a verb ending with -ed

Frightened he would be late for school, David ran to catch the bus.

Begin with an adverb.

Hurriedly David ran to catch the bus.

At 7:00 AM, David ran to catch the bus.

Begin with a phrase that tells when.

Begin with a verb ending with -ing.

Begin with a prepositional phrase.

Begin with a verb ending with -ed

Begin with an adjective.

Ways to Begin Sentences

Begin with an adverb.

Begin with a phrase that tells where.

Begin with a sound word..

Begin with a phrase that tells when.

Begin with an interjection.

Begin with a clause.

Begin with a transition word or phrase.

Begin with an appositive.

Ways to Begin Sentences

Begin with Yes or No.



David ran to catch the bus.

Begin with a coordinating conjunction.

Make a question. Begin with who, what, when, where, how, why.

Begin with an infinitive phrase.

Begin with an interjection.

Stop! Stop! David ran to catch the bus.

Begin with a clause.

While David stopped to tie his shoe, he saw the bus driving away from the stop. David had to run to catch the bus.

Begin with a transition word or phrase.

David left his house late for school. Then, David ran to catch the bus.

Begin with an appositive.

The boy who was late for everything, David had to run to catch the bus.

Ways to Begin Sentences



David ran to catch the bus.

Begin with Yes or No.

Yes, David had to run to catch the bus again.

David left his house late for school. So, David had to run to catch the bus.

Why did David have to run to catch the bus?

To keep from being late for school, David ran to catch the bus.

Begin with a coordinating conjunction.

Turn the sentence into a question. Begin with who, what, when, where, how, why.

Begin with an infinitive phrase.

Begin with an interjection.

Begin with a clause.

Begin with a transition word or phrase.

Begin with an appositive.

Ways to Begin Sentences

Begin with Yes or No.

Begin with a coordinating conjunction.

Turn the sentence into a question. Begin with who, what, when, where, how, why.

Begin with an infinitive phrase.

Begin with an interjection.

Begin with a clause.

Begin with a transition word or phrase.

Begin with an appositive.

Ways to Begin Sentences

Begin with Yes or No.

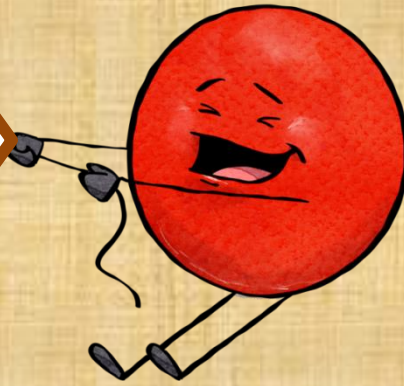
Begin with a coordinating conjunction.

Turn the sentence into a question. Begin with who, what, when, where, how, why.

Begin with an infinitive phrase.

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Credits

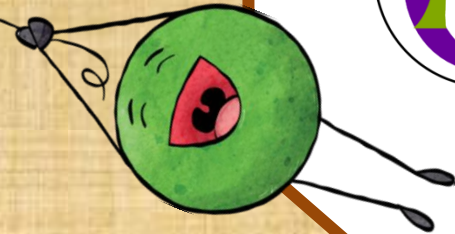
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