

Roman Fronted Adverbials

A fronted adverbial is a word or phrase at the start of a sentence.

It tells us when, where or how something happened.

Remember: when a fronted adverbial comes at the start of a sentence, we usually add a comma after it.

Example:

At sunrise, the Roman soldiers marched towards the fort.

1 Highlight the fronted adverbials!

A Morning in Roman Britain

At sunrise, Marcus hurried along the Roman road. Inside the busy fort, soldiers were already preparing for the day. With great care, one soldier polished his shield until it shone.

Before breakfast, the commander gave clear instructions to the guards. Near the wooden gates, a messenger waited with an important scroll. Silently, he watched as the soldiers lined up.

After the signal, the gates opened and the patrol marched out. Along the muddy track, villagers stepped aside to let them pass. With steady steps, Marcus followed the others towards the edge of the settlement.

2 Read each sentence and add the missing comma after each fronted adverbial.

a) At dawn the Roman soldiers marched towards the fort.

b) Inside the villa the family prepared for a feast.

c) With a loud cheer the crowd welcomed the gladiator.

d) Before the battle the general lifted his sword.

e) Along the stone road the messenger ran quickly.

f) Without warning the chariot raced past the market stalls.




Roman Fronted Adverbials

3

Sort each fronted adverbial into the correct column.

At dawn, With great courage, Along the stone road, In a hurry,
 Inside the Roman fort, Later that evening, In the crowded forum,
 Before the battle, Without a sound, During the festival, Carefully,

Adverbial of Time (when)	Adverbial of Place (where)	Adverbial to express how
		

4

Choose a fronted adverbial, then match it with a main clause to create a complete Roman-themed sentence. Remember to add a comma after the fronted adverbial!

Fronted Adverbials

- At dawn
- Inside the fort
- With great courage
- Before the feast
- Along the Roman road
- Without warning

Main Clauses

the messenger hurried towards the city.

the gladiator stepped into the arena.

the family decorated the villa.

the gates opened loudly.

the chariot raced past the market.

the soldiers prepared their shields.

Roman Writing Mission

You are a Roman soldier living in a fort in Britain.

Write a letter home to your family explaining what life is like at the fort.

Try to include:

- a fronted adverbial to show when something happened
- a fronted adverbial to show where something happened
- a fronted adverbial to show how something happened
- a comma after each fronted adverbial
- at least 4 Roman-themed words, such as fort, soldier, shield, road, messenger, villa, emperor, armour



A large rectangular area with a thick, irregular black border, containing 18 horizontal lines for writing a letter.



Mark Scheme



Activity 1: Read and Highlight

- At sunrise, Marcus hurried along the Roman road.
- Inside the busy fort, soldiers were already preparing for the day.
- With great care, one soldier polished his shield until it shone.
- Before breakfast, the commander gave clear instructions to the guards.
- Near the wooden gates, a messenger waited with an important scroll.
- Silently, he watched as the soldiers lined up.
- After the signal, the gates opened and the patrol marched out.
- Along the muddy track, villagers stepped aside to let them pass.
- With steady steps, Marcus followed the others towards the edge of the settlement.

Activity 2: Add the Missing Commas

- At dawn, the Roman soldiers marched towards the fort.
- Inside the villa, the family prepared for a feast.
- With a loud cheer, the crowd welcomed the gladiator.
- Before the battle, the general lifted his sword.
- Along the stone road, the messenger ran quickly.
- Without warning, the chariot raced past the market stalls.

Adverbial of Time (when)	Adverbial of Place (where)	Adverbial to express how
At sunset, Before the feast, During the festival,	Inside the amphitheatre, Beside the city wall, Across the busy forum,	With great care, Without a sound, In a hurry,

Activity 4: Build Roman Sentences

Children should choose a fronted adverbial and match it with a suitable main clause to make a complete sentence.

They should also add a comma after the fronted adverbial.

Example answers

At dawn, the soldiers prepared their shields.

Inside the fort, the gates opened loudly.

Parent Guide: Writing Task

This writing task is open-ended, so children's answers will all look different. Rather than expecting one "right" answer, look for whether your child has used fronted adverbials accurately and written in role as a Roman soldier.

A strong answer will usually include:

- a letter opening
- writing in role as a Roman soldier
- at least 3 fronted adverbials
- commas after fronted adverbials
- a mix of when, where and how fronted adverbials
- Roman-themed vocabulary
- expanded noun phrases
- powerful verbs
- clear sentences with capital letters and full stops
- ideas that make sense and stay on topic