

Language Arts Sentence Starters and Helpful Vocabulary

Examples of Sentence Starters:

1. Subject: subject + verb + details. Eg: The scary cat peeped through the shabby curtains.
2. Adverb (-ly): -ly word + subject + verb + details. Eg: Slowly the snail wound its way through the grass.
3. Preposition: prepositional phrase, + subject + verb. Eg: Through the trees, the boys played tag.
4. -ing: -ing word in phrase, + subject + verb. Eg: Working quite diligently, the students thoroughly finished their assignments.
5. Clausal: clausal phrase, + subject + verb. Eg: Because the hill was so icy, the cars slid down it.
6. -ed: -ed word in phrase, + subject + verb. Eg: Shocked at the sight of the ghost, Billy hid in fear.

Examples of Sentence Enhancers

1. Dual Adjective: Two adjectives are used to describe one of the nouns in the sentence. Eg: The brown speckled horse galloped through the field.
2. Adverb: Uses an -ly word to describe the verb, can be found at the beginning of the sentence, before or after the verb. Eg: The girl slowly pulled out her unfinished homework.
3. Dual Strong Verb: Uses 2 verbs side by side connected with "and" or possibly "while". Eg: The unicorn glided and twirled in the cloudless sky.
4. who/which clause: Adds more detail about the noun by adding a clause in the middle of the sentence with commas at the start and finish of the clause. Eg: Quickly the fast sports car, which was red and shiny, careened around the corner.
5. Although, as, if, since, because clause: adds in more detail by using a clause at the beginning or end of the sentence. Eg: The burglar escaped, although he was seen by the police.
6. When, where, while clause: adds in more detail by using a clause at the beginning or end of the sentence. Eg: We went home where we shared a delicious chocolate cake.

Word	Meaning
Noun	person, place, or thing
Verb	action word
Adverb	describes or modifies the verb (usually an -ly word)

Adjective	describes a noun
Preposition	describes where or when something takes place (i.e behind, through, above..)
Subject	the noun that the sentence is describing
Predicate	what the subject does
Simile	Comparing two unlike things using "like" or "as" Ex. <i>The realization hit me like a ton of bricks.</i>
Metaphor	Comparing two unlike things without using "like" or "as" Ex. <i>The world is a stage.</i>
Personification	The act of attributing human characteristics to abstract ideas etc. Ex. <i>The wind whispered in my ear.</i>
Onomatopoeia	The formation or use of words such as <i>buzz</i> or <i>murmur</i> that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to. Ex. <i>Hiss! The balloon slowly deflated.</i>
Hyperbole	Obvious and intentional exaggeration Ex. <i>After I had waited an eternity, my dinner was finally ready.</i>
Alliteration	Use of the same consonant at the beginning of each stressed syllable in a line of verse Ex. <i>Around the rock the ragged rascal ran.</i>
Exaggeration	Exaggerating and overstating. Ex. <i>Thick lenses exaggerated the size of her eyes.</i> Ex. <i>When an object is purposefully made larger in a picture to draw attention to it for some reason.</i>
Analogy	A similarity between like features of two things, on which a comparison may be based. Ex. <i>The analogy between the heart and a pump.</i>
Irony/Ironic	A contradiction in meaning. Ex. <i>A fire station burning down.</i> <i>Getting cut in a pillow factory.</i>

Oxymoron	Words placed side by side that seem contradictory in meaning. Ex. <i>Jumbo shrimp, rolling stop, freezer burn, pretty ugly</i>
Synecdoche	Part of something is used to refer to the whole thing, or vice versa Ex. <i>All hands on deck!</i> <i>Check out my new wheels! Sweet ride!</i>
Excerpt	A small passage or quotation taken from a whole piece of a book, poem, document, film, etc.. Ex: Taking 4 paragraphs from a novel, or taking 1 stanza from a poem.
Motive	The goal or object of a person's actions Ex. <i>Her motive was revenge.</i>
Climax	The highest or most intense point in the development or resolution of something. Ex. <i>His career reached its climax when he was elected president.</i>
Purpose/Intention	Reason for doing something. Ex. <i>"What was the author's purpose/intention for writing the word in bold/caps/italics...?"</i>
Antagonist	One who opposes against or interferes with another character. Ex. Usually the "bad" character or villain
Protagonist	The leading character, hero, or heroine of a drama or other literary work.
Conflict(ed)	To fight or contend, do battle, disagree, have opposing feelings.
Escalate(ing)	To increase. Ex. <i>The plot of the story escalated.</i> <i>The price of gas is escalating.</i>
Bold	Dark and standing out more than surrounding text. A feature that is used to draw attention to text.
Italics/Italicize	When a text is <i>slanted</i> . A feature that is used to draw attention to text.
Stanza	A section of a poem, usually 4 or more lines. May have a certain rhyme scheme.
Verse	A stanza or an entire poem. A part of a song usually following a chorus.
Rhyme Scheme	Pattern of rhymes used in a poem, usually marked by letters. Ex. <i>Aabba</i>

Couplet	A pair of lines that usually rhyme and are of the same length.
Repetition	To repeat something. Author usually does this to stress the importance.
Poet	Author of a poem.
Table of Contents	List of certain sections and the page on which they start.
Appendix	At the end of a book, often giving extra information on something.
Frame	A section or "square" of a cartoon Ex. <i>What is the main idea in the third frame of the cartoon?</i>
Compare	What is <i>similar</i> between 2 or more things. Ex. <i>Compare the main idea in the first and second stanza.</i>
Contrast	What is <i>different</i> between 2 or more things. Ex. <i>Contrast 2 characters in the story.</i>
Inference	Arriving at a conclusion based on clues. Ex. <i>I infer that my brother is upset when he slams his door.</i>
Prediction	Making a statement about the future based on clues. Ex. <i>I predict that I will do well on my test because I have listened in class and studied.</i>
Summary(ize)	A brief overview of something.
Imply/Implies/Implied	To indicate or suggest something without directly stating it. Ex. <i>"Uh oh, now what have you done?" implies that the character gets into trouble often.</i>
Figurative Language	The use of words to mean something different from their usual dictionary meaning. Ex: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, alliteration...
Ellipsis	(...) Used to show that something has been left out of writing or that the writing is not finished or will be continued. Ex: <i>"I was going to clean my room but then Sarah called and we started..."</i>
Imagery	Using descriptive language in writing to form mental images or to paint pictures in the readers mind.

	<p>Ex: The warm breeze caressed my face as the golden sun wrapped its arms around me.</p>
Graphic	<p>A picture, symbol or diagram that helps to add meaning.</p>
Synonym	<p>A word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another in the language. Ex: joyful, elated, glad, happy</p>
Antonym	<p>A word opposite in meaning to another. Ex: Fast is an antonym of slow.</p>
Homonym	<p>A word the same as another in sound and spelling but different in meaning. Ex: see/sea, peace/piece, through/threw.</p>
Fact	<p>Something that has really occurred or is actually the case. A fact can be proven. Ex: Calgary's NHL team is named the Calgary Flames.</p>
Opinion	<p>A personal viewpoint, feeling or point of view. Ex: The Calgary Flames are the best team in the NHL.</p>