

# KILLGALLON SENTENCE COMPOSING

## OPENING ADVERB

Adverbs that tell *how* an action happened (*quickly, slowly, rapidly*) almost always end in -ly. Other adverbs tell *when* an action happened (*now, then, yesterday*) or *where* an action happened (*overhead, nearby, underneath*).

*How:*

1. **Quickly**, they flung a rope with a hook towards him.  
J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

*When:*

2. **Reluctantly**, the boy fastened the collar on the bear cub.  
Hal Borland, *When the Legends Die*

*Where:*

3. **Outside**, she saw only a calm, beautiful night.  
Walter Lord, *A Night to Remember*

**CREATIVE WRITING** Use the following sentence as the opening line in a new paragraph.

**Then**, as quickly as it had become a tiger, the specter changed into a man with the face of a rat.  
Walter Dean Myers, *Legend of Tarik*

# APPOSITIVE PHRASE

Appositive: a noun phrase identifying a person, place, or thing named in a sentence. Appositives often begin with the words *a*, *an*, or *the*. They always answer one of these questions:

Who is he? Who is she? Who are they? (people)

What is it? What are they? (places or things)

1. Once they were in her office, **a small room with a large welcoming fire**, Professor McGonagall motioned to Harry and Hermione to sit down.

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

2. **A balding, smooth-faced man**, he could have been anywhere between forty and sixty.

Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

3. Lou Epstein, **the oldest, shortest, and baldest of the three Epstein brothers**, barely looked up from the cash register when Alfred entered the store.

Robert Lipsyte, *The Contender*

**CREATIVE WRITING** Use the following sentence as the opening line in a new paragraph.

In the locker room, I packed for the trip to New Orleans, **the road-trip that would change my life and destiny as an athlete forever.**

Pat Conroy, *My Losing Season*

# ABSOLUTE PHRASE

Absolute phrases describe the rest of the sentence in which it appears. They are almost complete sentences. They often begin with: *my, his, her, its, our, their* (possessive pronouns).

*Visible possessive pronouns*

1. **His heart beating very fast**, Harry stood still listening to the chilly silence.

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

2. Radly had been leaning against the wall when I came into the room, **his arms folded across his chest**.

Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

3. There was a bespectacled boy of about eleven, and a girl a few years younger, perhaps seven or eight, **her blond hair pushed up under a baseball cap, and a baseball glove slung over her shoulder**.

Michael Crichton, *Jurassic Park*

*Implied possessive pronoun*

4. Patrick, [her] **book in hand**, was at another shelf, looking at English soldiers of differing periods.

Lynne Reid Banks, *The Return of the Indian*

**CREATIVE WRITING** Use the following sentence as the opening line in a new paragraph.

1. The creatures, **some sitting on chairs, others reclining on a sofa**, were all watching him intently.

Roald Dahl, *James and the Giant Peach*