

# KILLGALLON SENTENCE COMPOSING 11H

## OPENING ADVERB

Adverbs that tell *how* an action happened (*quickly, reluctantly, rapidly*) almost always end in -ly. Other adverbs tell *when* an action happened (*soon, 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*

2. **Unsteadily**, she limped across the room and sat in her chair by the window.  
Eleanor Coerr, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*

When:

3. **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*

Where:

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

5. **Overhead**, the branches rustled.  
Lloyd Alexander, *The Book of Three*

# 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*)

Identifying people:

1. Don Gross was a tough guy, **an ex-Marine who had never lost his military manner.**

Michael Crichton, *Prey*

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

Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Identifying places:

3. 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*

Identifying things:

4. 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*

5. From every hill slope came the trickle of running water, **the music of unseen fountains.**

Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*

# PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

A preposition is the first word in a prepositional phrase. Common prepositions: *about, above, across, after, along, at, before, behind, below, beyond, by, down, except, from, in, inside, like, near, off, on, over, outside, to, through, under, up, upon, with, within, without.*

Not sure: If it's a preposition, it will probably fit in this blank: It was \_\_\_\_\_ the box.

*Single prepositional phrase:*

1. **On the whole enormous prairie**, there was no sign that any other human being had ever been there.  
*Laura Ingalls Wilder, Little House on the Prairie*

*Connected prepositional phrases (two or more in a row, without commas):*

2. **Upon the grass of the great plains**, the crooked, bare old thorn trees were scattered.  
*Isak Dinesen, Out of Africa*

*Multiple prepositional phrases (two or more in a row, with commas):*

3. **Behind a billboard, on an empty lot**, he opened the purse and saw a pile of silver and copper coins.  
*Charles Spencer Chaplin, My Autobiography*

*Connected + single:*

4. **On the far side of the camping ground**, just where the trees began, they saw the Lion slowly walking away **from them into the wood**.  
*C.S. Lewis, The Chronicles of Narnia*

*Multiple + single:*

5. That moment **of utter darkness, at the height of the storm**, was one **of the most terrifying** Johnny had every experienced.  
*Arthur C. Clarke, Dolphin Island*

# 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*

*Example: The puppy, [his] **tail wagging vigorously**, drooled on my shoes.*

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

Lynne Reid Banks, *The Return of the Indian*

5. Calvin, **face screwed up with grim determination**, did not relax his hold.

Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*