

# What Does 'Uplevelling a Sentence' Mean?

To 'uplevel' a sentence is to make a boring sentence interesting by including more advanced grammatical features, such as changing...

The cat sat on the cushion.

into

**Contentedly**, the **sleepy, tabby cat** sat on the **comfortable, soft cushion** while her owners were out shopping.

How has this sentence been improved?



# What Have I Added?

next 

Click on the grammatical features used to uplevel the sentence to find out more about them.

Fronted Adverbials

Expanded Noun Phrases

Subordinating  
Conjunctions

**Contentedly**, the **sleepy, tabby cat** sat on the **comfortable, soft cushion** **while her owners were out shopping**.

Can you see how much more interesting this sentence has become now that we know some extra details?



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# Fronted Adverbials

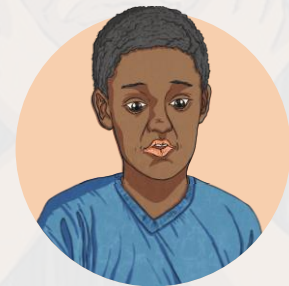
Fronted adverbials are words or phrases at the beginning of a sentence which are used to describe the action that follows, such as:

**Without a sound,** Jonah slipped his ballot card into the box.



**In May,** Dr Foster waited for a bus to Gloucester.

**Nervously,** Simon waited for his test results.





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# Expanded Noun Phrases

An expanded noun phrase provides extra information about the noun. You can use **adjectives** or **modifying nouns** to give more information within your sentences, such as:

my **kind science** teacher



a **tiny, colourful** bird



a **straight, orderly** line





# Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions are the first words within a subordinate clause. Subordinate clauses do not make sense on their own but when they are used with a main clause, they create a complex (multi-clause) sentence.

Emily had wanted a pet elephant **since she was a little girl.**



They danced together at the competition **until the music stopped.**



# Let's Start...

We are going to uplevel the following sentence one step at a time.  
Are you ready?

My mum went to the shop.



First, we will create **expanded noun phrases**.

Next, we will add a **fronted adverbial**.

Finally, we will add a **subordinating conjunction**.



# You will end up with something like this!

Read though the improved sentence. Notice where the features go.

My mum went to the shop.

could have become

**Last Thursday**, my **kind**,  
**hardworking** mum went to the  
**old sweet** shop **because she**  
**wanted to buy herself a treat.**



# Adjectives and Modifying Nouns Mind Map

Use ambitious adjectives and modifying nouns to add extra information about both of the nouns in this sentence. Which two things will you be describing?

**My mum went to the shop.**

**What** do they look like?

Think about **personality**.

How are they **feeling**?

Think about **condition**.

What **age** are they?

What about **size**?



Make a list of the adjectives you can use



# Fronted Adverbial Mind Map

Remembering that fronted adverbials are words or phrases at the beginning of a sentence which are used to describe the action that follows, think about these questions:

**My mum went to the shop.**

**When** did she go?

Does she do it **frequently**?

**Where** was the shop?

**How** did she get there?

**How long** did it take her?

What **state** was she in?



Make a list of the fronted adverbials you could use. You only need 2 or 3 as you are going to choose your favourite.

# Subordinating Conjunctions

Choose one of the following subordinating conjunctions to start a subordinate clause. What extra information will you add to your sentence to make it interesting?

**My mum went to the shop.**

after  
although  
as  
because  
before  
if

since  
that  
until  
when  
while



Think of which subordinating conjunction you want to use.



# Now craft your sentence

Did you manage to uplevel the sentence one step at a time?

My mum went to the shop.

could have become

**Last Thursday**, my **kind**,  
**hardworking** mum went to the  
**old sweet** shop **because she**  
**wanted to buy herself a treat.**

or

**Yesterday evening**, my **wonderful**,  
**caring** mum went to the  
**small sweet** shop **so she could buy me a treat.**



# It's Your Turn...

You are going to uplevel the following sentence one step at a time.  
Are you ready?

The couple walked their dogs.

Class 13 smiled for the photographer.

Nita and her friends sat in a circle.

The mermaid held a shell.

Jemima's parents dragged the suitcases.

First, create **expanded noun phrases**.

Next, add a **fronted adverbial**.

Finally, add a **subordinate clause**.



# Add the Missing Features

Haphazard Harold has had a go at uplevelling this sentence, but he hasn't used all of the grammatical features we need. What has he missed?



The **nervous, anxious** man wore  
a **smart, grey** suit **because he**  
**was waiting for an interview.**



How could you improve Harold's handiwork?  
Add in the missing feature

# Add the Missing Features

Haphazard Harold has had a go at uplevelling this sentence, but he hasn't used all of the grammatical features we need. What has he missed?



**Every morning,** the postman  
delivers the letters **before I get**  
**out of bed.**

How could you improve Harold's handiwork?  
Add in the missing feature





# Add the Missing Features

Haphazard Harold has had a go at uplevelling this sentence, but he hasn't used all of the grammatical features we need. What has he missed?



**Clumsily**, Jamie dropped the **priceless, antique** vase.

How could you improve Harold's handiwork?  
Add in the missing feature



