

Sentence starters and useful vocabulary

15 styles of writing

- Advertisements
- Biography
- Descriptive writing
- Diary writing
- Discursive writing
- Explanatory texts
- Information texts (non-chronological reports)
- Instructions and procedures
- Invitations
- Letter writing
- Narratives
- Newspaper reports
- Persuasive writing
- Playscript
- Recounts

25 great sentence starters

- Although . . .
- As . . .
- As I see it . . .
- At one point . . .
- Despite the fact that . . .
- Even though . . .
- Finally . . .
- For example . . .
- Furthermore . . .
- Gradually . . .
- I believe that . . .
- If . . .
- In addition . . .
- In conclusion . . .
- In general . . .
- In my view . . .
- In spite of . . .
- I would like to . . .
- Meanwhile . . .
- Moreover . . .
- Nevertheless . . .
- So . . .
- Subsequently . . .

- Therefore . . .
- Whilst . . .

1) Advertisements

Rhetorical questions

- Do you think that . . ?
- Don't you think that . . ?
- Isn't it time to . . ?
- Have you ever thought about . . ?
- Why not . . ?
- Need a . . ?
- Need to . . ?
- Fancy . . . ?
- Fed up with . . . ?
- Bored by . . . ?
- Haven't you always longed for a . . ?
- Thought about . . ?
- Worried about . . ?

Starting sentences with a verb

- Don't . . .
- Go on, .
- Try a . . .
- Enjoy the . . .
- Imagine . . .
- Consider . . .
- Take a moment to . . .
- Find out . . .
- Guaranteed to . . .

Persuasive statements

- You will be . .
- It will . . .
- You'll never need to . . . again.
- Just think how . . .
- Now you can . . .
- For the rest of your life . . .

Useful adjectives

- extraordinary
- remarkable
- amazing
- astonishing
- incredible
- phenomenal

- unbelievable
- startling
- tantalising
- attractive
- unmissable
- unique
- sensational
- outrageous

2) Biography

Words and phrases to use at the start of sentences

Time connectives

- As a child . . .
- During his early life . . .
- At a young age . . .
- In his early years . . .
- As a teenager he . . .
- Shortly after this . . .
- Soon afterwards . . .
- The time came for . . .
- By the time he had . . .
- Many years later . . .
- In 1878, at the age of . . . he . . .
- In his later years . . .
- Towards the end of his life . . .
- In his final years . . .

Other starters

- Either by chance or by design . . .
- As it happened . . .
- Sometimes he . . .
- Once he had . . .
- What is clear is that . . .
- Nobody is sure why . . .

Making statements

- One of the interesting things about . . . was . . .
- One of the most remarkable facts about . . .
- Strangely . . .
- Another unusual thing about . . . was . . .

Complex sentence starters

- Even though . . .
- Although . . .

- Despite the fact that . . .
- In spite of . . .

Expressing a viewpoint

- In my view . . .
- As I see it . . .
- I believe that . . .
- In many ways . . .
- It's difficult to understand why . . .

Speculating

- He might have been . . .
- If he hadn't . . . he would have . . .

Legacy statements

- His one regret was that . . .
- His dying wish was that . . .
- He will probably be best remembered for . . .
- His greatest achievement was . . .
- He will be remembered most of all for . . .
- His life was . . .
- His lasting legacy is that . . .

3) Descriptive writing

Some adjectives to introduce children to

Describing characters

aggressive	blunt	charitable	deranged	elegant
ambitious	bold	chivalrous	determined	energetic
amiable	boisterous	compliant	deceitful	enigmatic
anxious	bombastic	conceited	decent	entertaining
arrogant	caring	conscientious	defiant	enthusiastic
assertive	carefree	confident	diligent	feeble
astute	candid	considerate	dishonest	flippant
avaricious	cantankerous	contrary	disrespectful	formidable
bashful	capricious	convincing	dour	frank
belligerent	casual	cranky	dynamic	frugal
benevolent	cautious	creative	eccentric	gallant

generous	hyperactive	knowledgeable	narrow minded	patient
genial	ignorant	level headed	neurotic	persistent
gentle	immature	loathsome	obdurate	pessimistic
gregarious	impatient	malicious	obedient	phlegmatic
grotesque	inconsiderate	malingering	obliging	placid
heroic	independent	mature	obstinate	pompous

hostile	insensitive	meek	obnoxious	precocious
humane	irritating	modest	optimistic	prickly
humble	jaunty	miserly	outspoken	proud
humourous	jovial	mournful	overbearing	pugnacious

pusillanimous	responsible	sensitive	surly	unpredictable
quarrelsome	rowdy	sharp	sympathetic	unruly
reckless	ruthless	spiteful	temperamental	unscrupulous
repulsive	sarcastic	squeamish	tenacious	vain
resilient	scheming	stern	thoughtful	valiant
resourceful	self-centred	stubborn	treacherous	vicious
respectful	self-conscious	sulky	truculent	violent

Some adjectives to describe settings in a narrative

attractive	crowded	glittering	peaceful	secluded
barren	deserted	gloomy	picturesque	sedate
beautiful	desolate	glum	placid	shaded
bleak	dingy	isolated	polluted	spacious
built-up	drab	lively	pulsating	stunning
cluttered	dreary	luxurious	quaint	tranquil
colourful	dusty	magnificent	remote	vibrant
cosmopolitan	eerie	modern	restful	warm
cosy	exquisite	mysterious	rural	welcoming
cramped	extravagant	old fashioned	scenic	windswept

Some adverbs to describe actions in narratives

accidentally	bravely	courageously	energetically	gallantly
admiringly	carefully	courteously	equisitely	generously
adoringly	carelessly	decisively	erratically	gently
aggressively	caringly	defiantly	excitedly	gingerly
angrily	casually	desperately	expressively	gracefully
anxiously	cautiously	determinedly	ferociously	graciously
assuredly	clumsily	disrespectfully	firmly	gratefully
awkwardly	confidently	ecstatically	foolishly	harshly
beautifully	continually	eloquently	forcefully	hesitantly
boldly	convincingly	emphatically	frankly	hysterically

imaginatively	menacingly	persistently	sarcastically	thoughtlessly
impatiently	modestly	persuasively	sensitively	timidly
impressively	needlessly	promptly	spitefully	urgently
insensitively	negatively	proudly	surreptitiously	vaguely
instantly	nervously	pessimistically	suspiciously	viciously
instinctively	nonchalantly	rapidly	sympathetically	violently
lazily	optimistically	reluctantly	tantalizingly	willingly

loosely	painstakingly	resentfully	tenderly	wisely
maliciously	patiently	resourcefully	theatrically	wistfully
majestically	perilously	respectfully	thoughtfully	worriedly

4) Diary writing

Adverbs to start a diary sentence with:

- Hopefully
- Fortunately
- Unfortunately
- Fortuitously
- Luckily
- Unluckily
- Thankfully
- Lately
- Recently
- Incidentally
- Curiously
- Eventually
- Anyway

Conversational manner with 'speech like phrases'

- By the way . . .
- To tell you the truth . . .
- I must tell you about . . .
- Right now I'm . . .
- You will never believe it but . . .
- I hope that . . .
- To be honest . . .
- I imagine that . . .
- I should have told you that . . .
- I have been looking forward to . . .
- I am looking forward to . . . (I am not looking forward to . . .)
- I am worried about . . . (I am not worried about . . .)
- I was looking forward to . . .
- I expect that . . .
- I think that . . .
- As it happened . . .
- I didn't expect . . .
- I don't expect . . .
- In truth . . .
- The best bit is . . . (The best bit was . . .)
- The worst part is . . . (The worst part was . . .)
- Worst of all . . .
- Best of all . . .

Rhetorical questions

- You'll never guess what happened?
- You know what?
- Do you know what?
- Can you imagine it?
- Have you ever . . . ?

Speculative sentence starters

- Perhaps
- I wonder if . . .
- I wonder whether . . .
- Maybe . . .

Other sentence starters

- Even though . . .
- For once . . .
- At least . . .
- At times . . .
- Sometimes . . .
- I felt so . . .

5) Discursive texts

Openings

- This piece of writing will . . .
- I intend to . . .
- My intention is to . . .
- I am going to . . .
- I will present . . .
- I will begin by . . .
- To do this I will . . .
- Following that I will . . .

Useful phrases

- In fact . . .
- As I see it . . .
- It appears to me . . .
- It seems to me that . . .
- One argument for this is that . . .
- I would counter this view because . . .
- On the other hand . . .
- It seems plausible to . . .
- Therefore . . .
- In addition . . .
- Moreover . . .

- Furthermore . . .
- Nevertheless . . .
- Subsequently . . .
- Consequently . . .
- However . . .
- In point of fact . . .
- It is precisely because . . .
- The evidence I would use to support this is . . .
- Naturally . . .
- Doubtless . . .
- It is surprising that . . .
- It surprises me that . . .
- It is no surprise that . . .
- It would seem logical to . . .
- Let us now turn to . . .
- Let's consider . . .
- An example of this is . . .
- My next point concerns . . .

Concluding remarks

- In conclusion . . .
- It is my conviction that . . .
- It is clear that . . .
- Finally I would like to add . . .
- To sum up . . .
- My overall feeling is . . .
- On balance . . .
- The evidence presented leads me to conclude that . . .

6) Explanatory texts

Opening statements

- This article will . . .
- The purpose of this article is to . . .
- This explanation is intended to . . .
- This article is designed to . . .
- The following information . . .
- I will try to . . .
- I will attempt to . . .
- It can be difficult to . . . so . . .
- Firstly I will . . .
- Following that I intend to . . .
- I am going to . . .
- The purpose of this explanation is to help . . .

Time connectives

- To begin with . . .
- Next . . .
- After that
- Following that . . .
- After a while . . .
- Wait a moment before . . .
- Before long . . .
- After a minute . . .
- First . . .
- First of all . . .
- Firstly . . .
- Next . . .
- After . . .
- Afterwards . . .
- After that . . .
- When . . .
- At this point . . .
- Lastly . . .
- Finally . . .
- Subsequently . . .

Causal connectives

- So . . .
- This causes . . .
- As a result . . .
- This results in . . .
- This leads to . . .
- This is because . . .
- This was because . . .
- Because . . .
- Therefore . . .
- Furthermore . . .

Other useful phrases

- In addition . . .
- Everyone understands that . . .
- Nobody knows why . . .
- Many people believe . . .
- I believe that . . .
- It is true to say that . . .

7) Information texts (non-chronological reports)

Opening statements

- This article will . . .
- The purpose of this article is to . . .
- The information presented will . . .
- This article is designed to . . .
- The following information . . .
- I will try to . . .
- I will attempt to . . .
- It can be difficult to . . . so . . .
- Firstly I will . . .
- I am going to . . .
- Each paragraph . . .

Factual sentence starters for information texts

- _____ are . . .
- _____ is . . .
- They are . . .
- They are also . . .
- They like to . . .
- They don't like . . .
- They avoid . . . because . . .
- They don't . . .
- It doesn't . . .
- They can . . .
- It can . . .
- Instead they . . .
- In addition, . . .
- Usually . . .
- Generally . . .
- Normally . . .
- As a rule . . .
- Frequently . . .
- They can be . . .
- They are usually . . . (It is usually . . .)
- They are rarely . . . (It is rarely . . .)
- They are never . . . (It is never . . .)
- They are a very . . . (It is a very . . .)
- Like many . . .
- Unlike . . .
- This is a . . .
- Although . . .
- Even though . . .
- Despite . . .
- Despite the fact that . . .
- Sometimes . . .
- Often . . .

- Frequently they . . .
- Be careful if you . . .
- More than half . . .
- Less than half . . .
- Most . . .

8) Instructions and procedures

- First . . .
- First of all . . .
- To start with . . .
- Firstly . . .
- Next . . .
- After . . .
- Afterwards . . .
- After that . . .
- When . . .
- At this point . . .
- Lastly . . .
- Finally . . .

More advanced language constructions

- To begin with . . .
- Begin by . . .
- Secondly . . .
- The next step is to . . .
- Continue by . . .
- Carry on . . .
- Do this until . . .
- Stop when . . .
- When you have done this . . .
- Try to . . .
- Try not to . . .
- Avoid . . .
- Don't forget to . . .
- Be careful of . . .
- Don't worry about . . .
- Concentrate on . . .
- Focus on . . .
- Try to make sure that . . .
- Whatever you do, don't . . .
- I would suggest that . . .
- To conclude . . .
- Before . . . remember to . . .
- Whilst you are . . .
- Use the time you are waiting to . . .

- If you find that . . . then . . .
- If . . . doesn't . . .

9) Invitations

Polite directives

- Please come to . . .
- It will be . . .
- It will take place at . . .
- It starts at . . .
- It finishes at . . .
- I am having a party because . . .
- I'm looking forward to . . .

More advanced language constructions

- I would like to invite you to . . .
- During the afternoon we will be . . .
- At two O' clock there will be . . .
- There will also be . . .
- The easiest way to get here is . . .
- At around . . .
- I think that . . .
- I expect that . . .
- The thing I am looking forward to most is . . .
- It is anticipated that we will finish at around . . .
- If you would like you can . . .
- It would be good if . . .
- I hope that you will . . .
- Try to/try not to . . .
- Don't forget to . . .
- If it's okay with you . . .
- If you can remember to . . .

Ten time connectives

- First of all . . .
- Later . . .
- Afterwards . . .
- After that . . .
- Next, we will . . .
- Soon after . . .
- At about . . .
- Following that . . .
- Finally . . .
- At the end of the afternoon/evening . . .

10) Letter writing

Openings

- I would like to inform you that . . .
- It has come to my attention that . . .
- I am grateful to you for . . .
- I wish to . . .
- I wish to express . . .
- I would like to . . .
- Thank you for . . .
- It is with much pride that I can confirm that . . .
- It is with regret that . . .
- I am delighted to inform you that . . .
- I write to you because . . .

Useful expressions

- Please accept my . . .
- I hope that . . .
- I trust that . . .
- It concerns me that . . .
- I wonder if you would be kind enough to . . .
- I would be grateful if . . .
- It would be helpful if . . .
- I wonder if . . .
- As I see it . . .
- I would rather not . . .
- I appreciate that . . .
- It is for this reason that . . .

Closing remarks

- I look forward to hearing from you in due course
- An early response would be greatly appreciated
- I trust that this is all in order
- Thank you once again for . . .
- Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

11) Narratives

Words/phrases signifying the passage of time

- Instantly
- Immediately
- Just at that moment
- Before long
- So
- Presently
- Soon
- Later

- Afterwards
- After a while
- Much later
- At last
- In a flash
- In next to no time
- Within seconds
- Next day
- The next evening
- Eventually
- Towards nightfall
- At dawn
- At dusk
- As the sun set
- Simultaneously
- Finally

Words/phrases that create more complex sentence constructions

- Sometimes
- Moreover
- However
- In spite of
- Nevertheless
- Surprisingly
- Strangely
- Similarly
- Incidentally
- Ironically
- Despite the fact that
- Even though
- Whilst
- Although
- Unusually
- In contrast
- Unknown to . . .
- Unable to . . .
- Without noticing that . . .

Words/phrases to change the focus of the story

- Suddenly
- Meanwhile
- Not far away
- Some distance away
- While
- During

12) Newspaper reports

Using indirect speech (no speech marks needed)

- He reported that . . .
- He also claimed that . . .
- He went on to state that . . .
- He confirmed that . . .
- She claimed that . . .
- He disputed that . . .
- She refused to accept that . . .
- He agreed that . . .
- He went on to tell us that . . .
- He continued by informing us that . . .
- In addition to this . . .
- He also spoke of how . . .
- He refused to accept that . . .
- He reputed . . .
- He emphasised . . .
- He continued by . . .
- A spokesman stated that . . .

Using connectives in reports

- Shortly before daybreak . . .
- Later that day . . .
- Before long . . .
- As evening fell . . .
- As the sun set . . .
- Soon after . . .
- Hours later . . .
- Unfortunately . . .
- Fortunately . . .
- Soon
- So
- Afterwards
- After that
- Later on
- Next
- Moments later
- Seconds later
- Much later
- Within minutes
- Suddenly
- Without any warning . . .
- At that very moment . . .
- Presently

- In a flash
- Eventually
- Simultaneously

14) Persuasive writing

Phrases using that

- I believe that . . .
- I think that . . .
- It seems to me that . . .
- It is clear that . . .
- It strikes me that . . .
- There is no doubt that . . . (There can be no doubt that . . .)
- I am convinced that . . .
- It appears that . . .
- It is obvious that . . .

Rhetorical questions

- Is it any wonder that . . . ?
- Don't you think . . . ?
- Isn't it clear that . . . ?
- Isn't it the case that . . . ?
- How can anyone believe this to be true?
- Does anyone really believe that . . . ?

Other phrases to start a sentence with

- In my opinion . . .
- As I see it . . .
- As everyone knows . . .
- Clearly . . .
- Obviously . . .
- Inevitably . . .
- My own view is . . .

Initial phrases followed by a comma

- Surely,
- Firstly,
- Secondly,
- Thirdly,
- In addition,
- Furthermore,
- Moreover,

Phrases to use when providing evidence

- For example,
- I cite, as an example . . .

- My evidence to support this is . . .
- I would draw your attention to . . .
- I would refer to . . .

Phrases to finish off with

- My last point is . . .
- My final point is . . .
- Finally,
- In conclusion,
- In summary,
- To conclude I would like to say . . .
- On the basis of the evidence presented . . .
- On balance . . .
- The evidence presented supports the view that . . .
- It is my sincere belief that . . .

15) Recounts

Useful language constructions

- Last week we . . .
- First . . .
- Next . . .
- After . . .
- Afterwards . . .
- After that . . .
- When . . .
- Suddenly . . .
- Just then . . .
- Soon . . .
- Meanwhile . . .
- Finally . . .
- So
- Later on
- Before long
- Next
- Moments later
- Seconds later
- Much later
- Within minutes
- At that very moment
- At precisely
- Presently
- In a flash
- When this was complete . . .
- Eventually

More advanced language constructions

- To begin with . . .
- Before long . . .
- Eventually . . .
- As it happened . . .
- As a result of . . .
- Consequently . . .
- Subsequently . . .

Evidence of viewpoint

- I found it interesting when . . .
- My favourite activity was . . .
- It was funny when . . .
- I liked the part when . . .
- I didn't enjoy . . .
- The best part was . . .

- The worst part was . . .
- I was surprised that . . .
- I was pleased that . . .
- I didn't expect that . . .
- It was difficult to . . .