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
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

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### Adjectives

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**Some adjectives to describe settings in a narrative**

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**Some adverbs to describe actions in narratives**

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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
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 . . .