

Improving Sentence Patterns: Prepositional Phrases

A good writer will change sentence patterns to make the writing more interesting to the reader. One way to change the pattern is to put prepositional phrases in different places. Often prepositional phrases appear at the end of a sentence. Putting the phrase in the middle or at the beginning may make the sentence more interesting.

Example:

The girl walked down the street after school.

Change to: 1) After school the girl walked down the street.

or 2) The girl after school walked down the street.

Rewrite the sentences below moving the prepositional phrases to another place in the sentence. Be careful to keep the meaning of the new sentence the same as the original.

1. Micah loved the puppy from the start.
2. The rabbit dug a hole under the fence.
3. William fell asleep in the library behind the shelf.
4. The storm clouds rose over the mountain in a purple mass.
5. Janie called to her mother from the top of the stairs.
6. The fire crackled in a merry way.
7. Emma saw a dark shadow above the window.
8. My father likes to read in the evening.

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Student's answers will vary. Examples of correct answers:

1. Micah loved the puppy from the start.

From the start Micah loved the puppy.

2. The rabbit dug a hole under the fence.

Under the fence the rabbit dug a hole.

3. William fell asleep in the library behind the shelf.

In the library William fell asleep behind the shelf.

4. The storm clouds rose over the mountain in a purple mass.

The storm clouds in a purple mass rose over the mountain.

5. Janie called to her mother from the top of the stairs.

From the top of the stairs, Janie called to her mother.

6. The fire crackled in a merry way.

In the fireplace the fire crackled in a merry way.

7. Emma saw a dark shadow above the window.

Emma saw above the window a dark shadow.

8. My father likes to read in the evening.

My father in the evening likes to read.