

Punctuation Pyramid

.

. ?

. ? , !

. ? , ! “ ” ... ’

. ? , ! “ ” ... ’ : () - ;

Capital Letters

own name

start of a sentence

all names, all sentences, ‘I’

place names, days, months, headings

start of direct speech, initials, titles, abbreviations

Openers

The

My, I

He, She, It, We, They

First, Then, Next, Last, So, Soon

When, Because, If, While, After, Before, As

Until, Although, Whilst, In spite of, Later, Even though, Meanwhile

Despite, Besides, Contrary to, Maybe, Perhaps, Due to, Being, After a while, Possibly

Connectives

and

but, so, then

when, because, if, while, after, before, also, plus

until, although, however, whilst, in spite of, even though, such as, so as to

despite, besides, having, in addition to, being, nevertheless, contrary to, eventually

OVERDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL Level-up Your Descriptive Language UKS2

adjective	synonyms				similes
bad	nasty/mean	wicked	cruel	evil	<i>As wicked as a witch.</i>
	awful	terrible	horrible	ghastly	<i>As evil as sin.</i>
big	large	huge	vast	massive	<i>As big as a bus/house.</i>
	immense	enormous	colossal	gigantic	<i>Like an elephant.</i>
brave	bold	fearless	daring	plucky	<i>As bold as brass.</i>
	courageous	valiant	intrepid	heroic	<i>Like a lion.</i>
clever	bright	wise	smart	witty	<i>As bright as a button.</i>
	brainy	intelligent	sharp	cunning	<i>As sharp as a knife.</i>
fast	quick	rapid	speedy	hurried	<i>As quick as a flash.</i>
	swift	hasty	promptly	sudden	<i>Like a shot. Like lighting.</i>
fat	large	chubby	plump	flabby	<i>As fat as a pig.</i>
	heavy	overweight	stout	obese	<i>As round as a barrel.</i>
funny	strange	odd	weird	unusual	<i>As strange as fiction.</i>
	amusing	hilarious	comical	humorous	<i>Like a clown.</i>
good	great	super	terrific	wonderful	<i>As good as gold.</i>
	brilliant	excellent	amazing	fabulous	<i>As good as it gets.</i>
happy	glad	cheerful	pleased	delighted	<i>As happy as Larry.</i>
	merry	jovial	contented	thrilled	<i>As pleased as Punch.</i>
little	small	tiny	slight	minor	<i>As small as a mouse.</i>
	trivial	petty	minute	minuscule	<i>As tiny as an ant.</i>
mad	annoyed	angry	furious	livid	<i>As mad as a hatter.</i>
	barmy	loony	nutty	crazy	<i>As nutty as a fruitcake.</i>
nice	kind	caring	gentle	sympathetic	<i>As nice as nine pence.</i>
	fine	enjoyable	pleasant	lovely	<i>As gentle as a breeze.</i>
pretty	lovely	attractive	beautiful	picturesque	<i>As pretty as a picture.</i>
	cute	stunning	handsome	striking	<i>As handsome as a prince.</i>
quiet	calm	silent	hushed	peaceful	<i>As quiet as a mouse.</i>
	soft	gentle	still	tranquil	<i>As silent as the grave.</i>
sad	unhappy	down	glum	gloomy	<i>As sick as a parrot.</i>
	miserable	downhearted	depressed	dejected	<i>As miserable as sin.</i>
scared	worried	concerned	apprehensive	fearful	<i>As white as a sheet.</i>
	afraid	frightened	terrified	petrified	<i>Shaking like a leaf.</i>
shy	quiet	timid	nervous	coy	<i>As timid as a rabbit.</i>
	meek	bashful	withdrawn	introvert	<i>As meek as a lamb.</i>
sly	crafty	cunning	wily	sneaky	<i>As sly/cunning as a fox.</i>
	devious	underhand	tricky	slippery	<i>As slippery as an eel.</i>
strong	muscular	strapping	burly	brawny	<i>As strong as an ox.</i>
	powerful	beefy	well-built	sturdy	<i>As fit as a fiddle.</i>
stupid	thick	dim	dense	brainless	<i>As thick as a brick/plank.</i>
	foolish	idiotic	silly	daft	<i>As soft/daft as a brush.</i>
tall	high	big	large	giant	<i>As tall as a giant.</i>
	lofty	towering	soaring	massive	<i>As tall as a giraffe.</i>
thin	skinny	slim	slender	lean	<i>As thin as a stick.</i>
	bony	scrawny	lanky	slight	<i>As skinny as a rake.</i>
ugly	nasty	horrid	horrific	hideous	<i>As ugly as sin.</i>
	unattractive	obnoxious	repulsive	revolting	<i>Like an eyesore.</i>
weak	feeble	frail	fragile	puny	<i>As weak as a kitten.</i>
	cowardly	gutless	spineless	weedy	<i>Like a jellyfish.</i>

verb	synonyms				
argue	quarrel	row	squabble	bicker	fall out
	fight	disagree	dispute	have words	tiff
cried	sobbed	wept	blubbed	bawled	howled
	wailed	moaned	snivelled	whinged	whimpered
fall	trip	stumble	slip	tumble	lose balance
	drop	nose dive	plummet	plunge	collapse
jump	leap	bound	spring	hurdle	vault
	flinch	fright	jerk	start	recoil
hit	slap/spank	smack/whack	strike/wallop	punch/thump	belt/clout
	beat/batter	pound/pummel	thrash/clobber	assault/attack	bash/crash
laugh	smile	grin	beam	smirk	giggle
	chuckle	titter	snigger	cackle	guffaw
look	watch	observe	stare	gaze	gawp
	peer	peep	peek	glimpse	squint
ran	hurried	raced	sprinted	dashed	darted
	bolted	scarpered	scampered	scattered	fled
said	asked/enquired	answered/replied	explained/described	moaned/groaned	complained/whined
	begged/pleaded	retorted/snapped	whispered	murmured/mutter	grumbled
shout	call	cry out	scream	yell	exclaim
	holler	roar	shriek	bawl	bellow
smell	stink	pong	whiff	stench	niff
	reek	hum	odour	scent	fragrance
steal	take	pinch	whip	pocket	lift
	make off with	thieve	rob	shoplift	burgle
talk	conversation	discussion	debate	gossip	chat
	speak	chinwag	natter/jabber	rattle on/rant	babble/prattle
try	attempt	struggle	strive	aim	seek
	endeavour	have a shot	have a stab	have a crack	make an effort
walk	stroll/saunter	shuffle/hobble	toddle/totter	hike/march	stride/tread
	tiptoe/creep	sneak/skulk	strut/swagger	trudge/trek	stagger/stumble
want	feel like	would like	wish for	yearn for	hanker after
	fancy	crave	desire	need	require
went	left	departed	set-off	started out	head-out
	hit the road	took off	travelled	journeyed	visited

Level-up simple OPENERS

First	To begin with	To start	At the outset	Initially	Originally
Next	Then	After that	Following this	Afterwards	Subsequently
Soon	Suddenly	All of a sudden	In a flash	Presently	Momentarily
	Before long	In no time	Shortly after	Moments later	Not long after
Last	Finally	In the end	Ultimately	Eventually	In conclusion

Level-up simple CONNECTIVES

and	also	plus	including	as well as	together with
	in addition	along with	furthermore	moreover	another thing
but	however	although	except	even so	apart from
	other than	excluding	save for	nevertheless	barring
so	therefore	as a result	consequently	hence	thus
then	next	later	afterwards	subsequently	eventually
	before long	suddenly	all of a sudden	in a flash	finally

For addition:				AND
and	also	too	plus	including
in addition	as well as	together with	along with	not forgetting
furthermore	moreover	another thing	what is more	notwithstanding

To compare and contrast:				BUT
but	however	although	despite this	nevertheless
whereas	alternatively	compared with	in contrast	on the other hand
similarly	equally	unlike	apart from	and yet

To show cause and effect:				SO
so	because	therefore	since	as a result
so that	inevitably	consequently	in the same way	for this reason

To signal sequence:				THEN
first	first of all	to begin with	at the start	initially
then	secondly	after that	soon after	following this
next	later on	afterwards	before long	after a while
lastly	finally	at last	in the end	eventually

To signal time and sequence:				WHEN
when	while	during	meanwhile	before
earlier	previously	later	after	following
Early that morning	Later that day	As evening fell	After many days	Weeks later

To give opinion:				HOWEVER
however	despite this	even so	nevertheless	in spite of
it would seem	it appears	on the other hand	whereas	
maybe	perhaps	possibly	probably	it is likely

For quantity:				SOME
nothing	none	some	few	a minority
several	many	most	mainly	the majority

For surprise or suspense:				
suddenly	that very moment	all of a sudden	without warning	in a flash
out of nowhere	unexpectedly	however	unknown to them	secretly

For dramatic effect:				
happily	fortunately	unbelievably	remarkably	frighteningly
sadly	unfortunately	tragically	luckily	terrifyingly

For emphasis and to persuade:				
the fact is	most agree that	some would argue	it is important to	naturally
surely	clearly	obviously	of course	undoubtedly
more importantly	especially	above all	indeed	in truth

For illustration:				
such as	for example	for instance	in other words	as shown by
to show that	this can be seen in	one example is	except for	unless

For conclusion and summary:				
therefore	overall	after all	on the whole	on balance
to summarise	finally	in conclusion	to conclude	in the end

OVERDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL Level-Up Your Writing
Using the 3 ‘Power’ Openers

UKS2

1. Starting with a CONNECTIVE				
<i>To signal time and sequence</i>				
Early that morning	Later that day	As evening fell	After many days	Weeks later
Firstly	First of all	Initially	To begin with	At the start
Then	Secondly	After that	Soon after	Following this
Next	Later on	Afterwards	Before long	Much later
Ultimately	Eventually	At last	In the end	Finally
<i>To change the setting</i>				
Meanwhile	Elsewhere	At the same time	Back at home	On the other ship
<i>For surprise or suspense</i>				
Suddenly	That very moment	All of a sudden	Without warning	In a flash
Out of nowhere	Unexpectedly	However	Unknown to them	Secretly
<i>To compare and contrast</i>				
However	Yet	Although	Despite	Nevertheless
<i>To show cause and effect</i>				
So	Therefore	Since	Because of this	As a result
Subsequently	Inevitably	Consequently	In the same way	For this reason
<i>For dramatic effect</i>				
Happily	Fortunately	Unbelievably	Remarkably	Frighteningly
Sadly	Unfortunately	Tragically	Luckily	Terrifyingly

2. Starting with a VERB (‘...ing’ words)				
Walking	Stumbling	Staggering	Limping	Marching
Creeping	Sneaking	Strolling	Ambling	Strutting
Looking	Staring	Gaping	Gazing	Observing
Watching	Glancing	Peering	Peeping	Peeking
Talking	Chatting	Gossiping	Speaking	Discussing
Yelling	Shouting	Whispering	Mumbling	Stammering

3. Starting with an ADVERB (‘...ly’ words)				
Slowly	Gradually	Steadily	<i>Bit by bit</i>	<i>Little by little</i>
Quickly	Rapidly	Speedily	Swiftly	Hurriedly
Quietly	Silently	Calmly	<i>Without a sound</i>	<i>Like a ghost</i>
Loudly	Noisily	Deafeningly	Raucously	<i>At full volume</i>
Happily	Gladly	Cheerfully	Joyfully	Gleefully
Sadly	Unhappily	Miserably	Wretchedly	Sorrowfully

Using combinations of ‘ly’ and ‘ing’ words			
Proudly marching...	Marching proudly...	Slowly staggering...	Staggering slowly...
Closely watching...	Watching closely...	Quickly glancing...	Glancing quickly...
Quietly chatting...	Chatting quietly...	Loudly speaking...	Speaking loudly...

noun	<i>A noun is a naming word. It tells you the name of somebody or something.</i>				
	man	dog	house	rock	table
	tree	bus	pen	toy	farm

adjective	<i>An adjective is a describing word. It describes somebody or something so they come before a noun or after a verb.</i>				
	old man	big dog	new house	hard rock	wooden table
	tall tree	red bus	black pen	old toy	large farm

verb	<i>A verb is a doing word. It is an action or a thing you do.</i>				
	jump	cry	think	laugh	climb
	talk	sleep	walk	look	shout

adverb	<i>An adverb describes a verb. It gives more detail about how something is being done. Many adverbs are adjectives with '-ly' added to the end.</i>				
	talk loudly	sleep soundly	walk slowly	look carefully	behave badly

powerful verbs	<i>A powerful verb gives you extra information about what the characters are doing and how. They help the reader imagine what is actually happening. The robber moved towards the house doesn't tell you how the robber is moving. The robber crept towards the house tells you that the robber is moving very carefully because he doesn't want to be seen or heard. Crept is a powerful verb.</i>					
	verb	walked	looked	eat	said	moved
	powerful verb	staggered	glared	gobble	whispered	lurched

From Simple to Complex Sentences

	(noun)		(verb)			(noun)
The	man	walked	down	the	street.	
<i>This tells us very little about the man or how he walked and we may all picture something very different.</i>						

	(adjective)	(noun)		(verb)		(adjective)	(noun)
The	young	man	walked	down	the	empty	street.
<i>Using adjectives we now know a bit more about the man and the street.</i>							

	(adjective)	(adjective)	(noun)	(powerful verb)		(adjective)	(noun)	
The	injured	young	man	staggered	down	the	deserted	street.
<i>Using a powerful verb lets us know he is in trouble. Better adjectives add tension to the scene.</i>								

	(verb)	(adverb)	(adjective)	(noun)	(powerful verb)		(adjective)	(noun)	
Bleeding	badly,	the	young	soldier	staggered	down	the	deserted	street.
<i>We now have a good picture of what is happening and want to know what happens.</i>									

L4 comma 2	,	<i>A comma is also used to separate parts of a sentence into clauses. A clause is a mini sentence inside another sentence. If the clause is in the middle of the sentence two commas are used.</i>				
		The dog was dirty. I gave the dog a bath.		The boy was watching. He started to laugh.		
		As dog was dirty, I gave it a bath.		The boy, who was watching, started to laugh.		
L4 speech marks	“ ”	<i>Speech marks are used to show the actual words spoken by a character. They are used at the beginning and end of the actual words spoken.</i>				
		“What do you want?” I asked.		Helen said, “I’m going home”.		
		Note: Use a new line for each speaker.		Use a comma before the spoken words.		
L4 apostrophe 1	’	<i>An apostrophe is used with ‘s’ to show possession (who owns something). If the owner is more than one (plural) and already ends in ‘s’ the apostrophe is added to the end of the word.</i>				
		Singular	Dad’s car	The girl’s hat	David’s hair	A bird’s egg
		Plural	My parents’ house	The girls’ coats	Boys’ football team	Birds’ eggs
L4 apostrophe 2	’	<i>An apostrophe is also used to show were a letter is missing when two words are joined. It is used to show the actual words spoken by someone and should not normally be used in formal writing.</i>				
		Do not	He will	should not	have not	We had
		Don’t	He’ll	shouldn’t	haven’t	We’d
L4 ellipsis	...	<i>An ellipsis is three dots (never 2 or 4). It creates a long pause that can help build tension in a story; show confusion or hesitation; or make the reader slow down and emphasise the words.</i>				
		“Er... well... all right then. But... make sure you’re home early.”				
		The crowd began to count. ‘One... two... three...’				
L5 colon	:	<i>A colon can be used to introduce a list or an example that follows afterwards. It makes the reader pause.</i>				
		To bake a cake you will need: flour, milk, eggs and butter.				
		Many holidays are Christian festivals: Christmas for example.				
L5 semi-colon	;	<i>A semi-colon is used to separate two main parts (clauses) of a sentence. It can also be used to separate items in a list if the items are phrases rather than single words.</i>				
		To bake a cake you will need: 1kg of self-raising flour; a pint of full-cream milk; four fresh eggs and a pound of butter.				
L5 brackets	()	<i>Brackets are very useful for giving the reader extra details such as characters thoughts, without breaking the flow of a sentence or making it too complicated.</i>				
		The calculator (that wasn’t really a calculator) started beeping.				
		“Hello Aunty Joan, (please don’t kiss me) it’s lovely to see you.”				
L5 dash	-	<i>A dash is used instead of other punctuation marks such as , ; : to show the reader where to pause.</i>				
		It was a great day out - everyone loved it.				
		He saw red eyes burning in the darkness – the pack of hounds.				
L5 hyphen	-	<i>A hyphen is used to join two or three words which you want to be read as one longer word.</i>				
		well-known	break-in	mix-up	passer-by	a ten-year-old
		text-book	no-one	skipping-rope	hold-up	hair-raising