

Vary
Sentence
Openings

Adjective or Compound Adjective

*Enraged, my brother stormed
into my room.*

Don't forget the comma!

Adverb or Compound Adverb

*Angrily, he accused me of
stealing his calculator.*

Don't forget the comma!

Adverb Clause

(use a subordinating conjunction)

While we argued and fought, our mother listened from the kitchen.

Don't forget the comma!

Prepositional Phrase (use a preposition)

*In the heat of the moment we
didn't hear Mom climb the stairs.*

You may not need a comma.

Participial Phrase

Coming through the door, Mom
said, “You are both in trouble.”

The participle’s action *must* be done by the subject that immediately follows the comma.

Appositive

★ *My brother, a quick debater,
immediately answered her.*

Don't forget the *two* commas
surrounding each appositive!

Simile/Metaphor

★ *“She’s like a tornado,” he complained, “tearing through my things.”*

★ *“Who would know? Your room is a swamp, a slough, a pit!”*

Strong Verbs

- ★ *“Enough! You will both spend an hour confined to your room.”*
- ★ *My brother stomped out, and I calmly went back to work—doing my math with his calculator.*

Use Other
Cool
Devices