

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