

Activity 1 – Adverbs

In the sentences below, the adverb 'slowly' is used to describe how the man enters the room. Adverbs are like roving reporters – they can be moved around the sentence, e.g.

- a. The man went in, slowly
- b. Slowly, the man went in.
- c. The man went slowly in.
- d. The man slowly went in.



By changing the position of the adverb, we can often either alter the meaning or add emphasis to a sentence. In this instance, by placing the *slowly* at the end, we infer that the character has a heightened awareness of the situation they are in and therefore deliberately enters with caution.

★ Try playing around with the adverb position in the following sentences. Consider how it alters the meaning and where the emphasis is best placed.

1. Cautiously, Samantha crept towards the door that stood before her.

2. Sadly, the boy stared out of the window.

Can you come up with your own sentence using an appropriate adverb? Try it out in different places in your sentence and decide where you like it best.

## Activity 2 – Through the eyes of the character



One of the things I love exploring when I'm writing is what must be going on in a character's mind. Whenever I read great portal stories, I always try to put myself into the shoes of the character, to try to imagine how they must be feeling as they discover this passageway to a new world. How must Alice have been feeling as she fell through the never-ending tunnel into Wonderland?

**First, think of your character** – it's easier if you base this on someone you know.

- What are they called?
- What do they look like?
- What sort of a person are they (miserable/friendly/kind/aggressive)?
- What do they say?
- What do they do?
- How do they treat other people?
- How do other people treat them?

Now compose a short piece of descriptive writing based on seeing a mysterious door through the eyes of your character. To do this, we will use a simple opener to drop the reader straight into the action:

We will also try to use some of the tools we explored in *The Snow Walker's Son*. Look at this example:

**Samantha stared.** There, rising out of the cliff, was an unfamiliar door; its metallic panels were tarnished in rust. Paint flaked off the brittle walls that made up its frame and the door handle rattled in the bitter breeze. Slowly, Samantha gazed all around her, took a deep breath and stepped forward.

Here are the tools I used:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Show the setting through the eyes of the main character (MC)</li></ul>	<p>Samantha stared.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the door/portal. (You may like to use two sentences that are closely linked in meaning and connect them with a semicolon.)</li></ul>	<p>There, rising out of the cliff, was an unfamiliar door; its metallic panels were tarnished in rust.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add some more detail.</li></ul>	<p>Paint flaked off the brittle walls that made up its frame and the door handle rattled in the bitter breeze.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include an adverb to hint at how the MC feels. Remember, you can move the position within the sentence.</li></ul>	<p>Slowly,</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use the pattern of three to advance the action and inject a sense of pace into your writing.</li></ul>	<p>Samantha gazed all around her, took a deep breath and stepped forward.</p>



★ Now Imagine your main character is walking along the road when they come across a mysterious doorway. Describe this through their eyes. Use my model above to help you.