

ED/ADJ STARTERS

#9 ON THE TECHNIQUES PAGE

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS SENTENCE:

*Pocahontas, **kind and generous**, greatly helped the colonists at Jamestown.*

If you move around the adjectives, **kind and generous**, to the beginning of the sentence, you will have a #9 Ed/ADJ starter. An Ed/ADJ starter is just what it sounds like, a sentence that starts with a descriptive adjective for the subject of the sentence. The rule is that the Ed/ADJ must be exactly followed by a comma and the subject of the sentence.



Kind and generous ★ **Pocahontas** greatly helped the colonists at Jamestown.

Who is **Kind and generous**? That's right – **Pocahontas** – which exactly follows the adjectives and the comma. ★

The Ed/ADJ starter is called Ed/ADJ because many, many adjectives are words that end in **-ed** (past tense verbs, actually, just used as adjectives) such as

Drained by the baby sitting job, Suzie instantly fell asleep on the couch.

Ed/ADJ starters are pretty easy if you can spot an adjective. An **Ed/ADJ starter** is basically a sentence that starts with a VVA, and it probably ends in -Ed (90% of the time).

WORDS LIKE

Determined to eat the whole pie all by herself, Suzy hid in the closet.
(Determined describes Suzy, which happens to come after the comma!)

Dismayed by the news, Lisa stood with her mouth hanging open.
(Dismayed describes Lisa, who happens to come after the comma!)

Annoyed by his stupid jokes, the girl walked away from her brother.
(Annoyed describes the girl...)

Overwhelmed with gratitude, the pilgrims gave thanks for five days.
(Overwhelmed describes the pilgrims, which come right after the comma!)

Amused by the boy's antics, George laughed and shook his head as he walked away.
(Amused describes George, which come right after the comma!)



are all **Ed/ADJ starters**.

SOME WORDS THAT ARE ED/ADJ STARTERS BUT DON'T END IN -ED ARE:

Green with envy, the wicked witch planned to kidnap the princess.
(Who's green with envy? Right, the wicked witch which comes right after the comma.)

Thankful to be alive, George kissed his sister.
(Who's thankful? That's right: George.)

Fresh and hot off the grill, the roasted chicken attracted a pack of neighborhood dogs.
(What's fresh and hot? You got it, the roasted chicken, right after the comma.)

THERE ARE MILLIONS OF WORDS THAT COULD CREATE ED/ADJ STARTERS.

Here are a few more examples:



Hallowed by the Egyptians...

Fortified with ten essential vitamins,

Carried from the ashes, ...

Tired of green smoothies,...

Spoken like a true lady,...

Confused by the directions,...

Filled with pride,...

Provided with the proper military intelligence,...

One caution: the *THING* being described *MUST* be the word immediately following the comma.  If it is not, it is called a “misplaced modifier” and you can get some pretty silly sentences that way -

Confused by the directions, the dog park blocked Suzy's efforts to make it to class on time.

Suzy was confused, not the dog park. It should be something like –

Confused by the directions, Suzy arrived at a dog park instead of her class.

Hallowed by the Egyptians, Suzy studied the god Osiris.

Osiris was hallowed, not Suzy. A better way would be –

Hallowed by the Egyptians, Osiris served as a great topic for Suzy's research report.

Tired of green smoothies, a fruit salad satisfied Josiah's taste buds.

Josiah was tired, not the fruit salad. Another way is –

Tired of green smoothies, Josiah satisfied his taste buds with a fruit salad instead.



Handouts that go along with this handout:

GGUG
Stylistic Techniques Page (TP)
Alternatives to Banned Adjectives (ABA)