

Sentence openers

There are a lot of different ways to open a sentence not just using the definite article (the) or the indefinite article (a/an). You can begin with a pronoun (he/she/it); with a proper noun (Mr Jones); with a verb in gerund form or past tense (running/exhausted); with a prepositional phrase (under the bridge); with an adverb (yesterday/slowly) or even with an adjective (red/big/happy).

Look at the sentences below and try and rearrange them to make them more interesting. You may need to change some words or add some in.

1. The man trudged slowly along the long winding road.

2. The light trickled through the open window like liquid gold.

3. The black cat purred contentedly as it lay on a soft brown sofa.

4. The rabbit gnawed at its carrot ravenously as it sat in its hutch.

5. I went to school yesterday, but today I was ill so I stayed in bed.

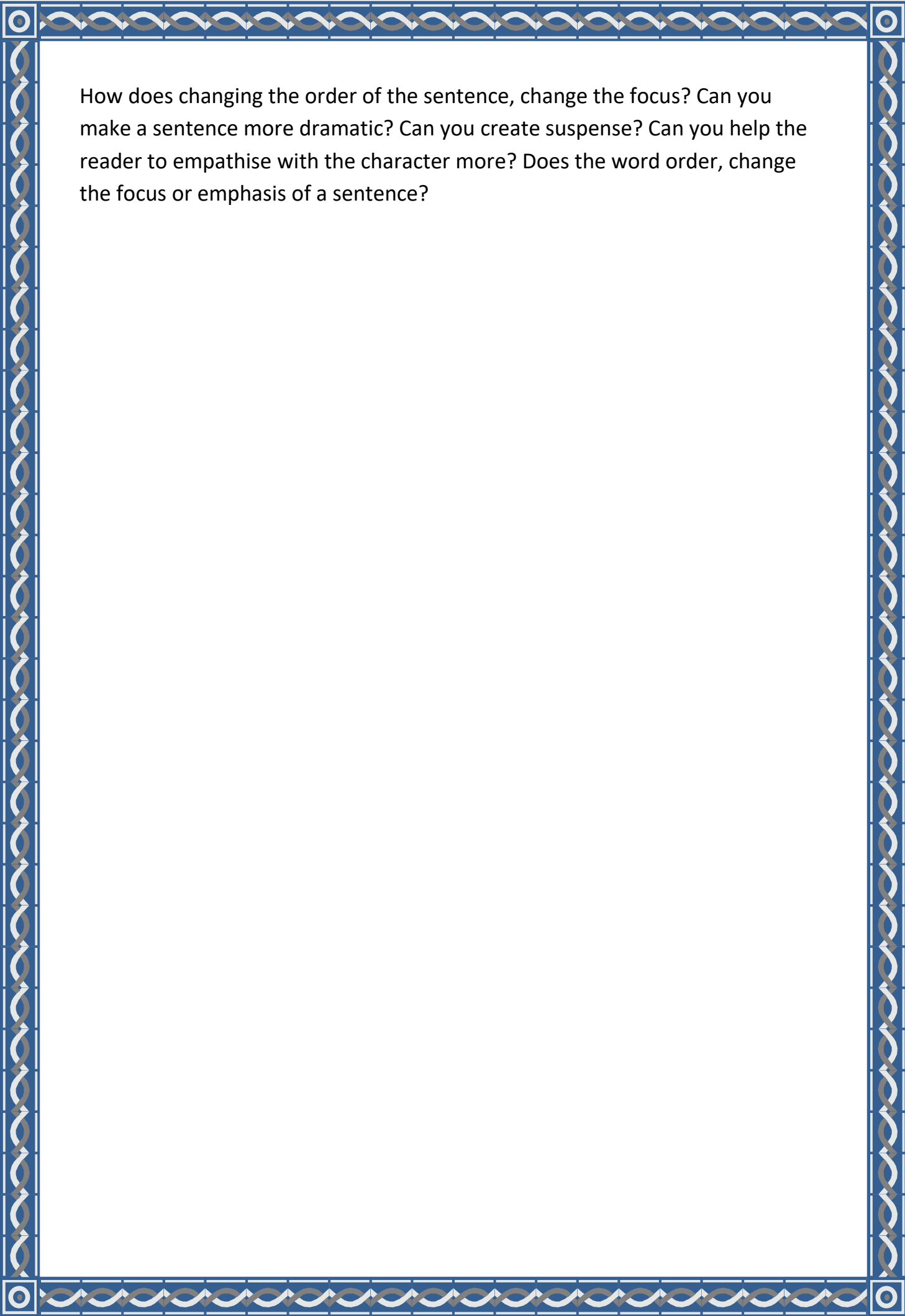
6. She called the boy's name softly, before leaving the room.

7. He climbed cautiously up the steep slope and gazed at the magnificent scenery below.

8. James didn't like broccoli; he didn't like cauliflower; nor did he like carrots and he most certainly didn't like sprouts!

9. Isabelle was very tired, so tired that she could hardly keep her eyes open and her head began to droop.

10. Charlotte was painting a lovely picture when the lights went out and she began to scream.



How does changing the order of the sentence, change the focus? Can you make a sentence more dramatic? Can you create suspense? Can you help the reader to empathise with the character more? Does the word order, change the focus or emphasis of a sentence?