

Eventually, the “all clear” siren started to wail and everybody roused themselves from their fitful sleep. I had hardly slept a wink. My body ached from lying on the stone flags, and my brain had whirred with thoughts. At times the whole shelter shook. Although the noise was muffled, you could tell that there were big explosions going on outside. For the past few hours it had been quiet. Trooping out in dribs and drabs after the siren went, the actors grumbled about the length of time they had spent in the shelter. I expect, like me, they had had enough of acting. The lady, who had made a space for me next to her on the floor, took my hand and led me up the steps. I didn’t want her to, but I thought this would be the last bit of acting before they told us they had finished filming.

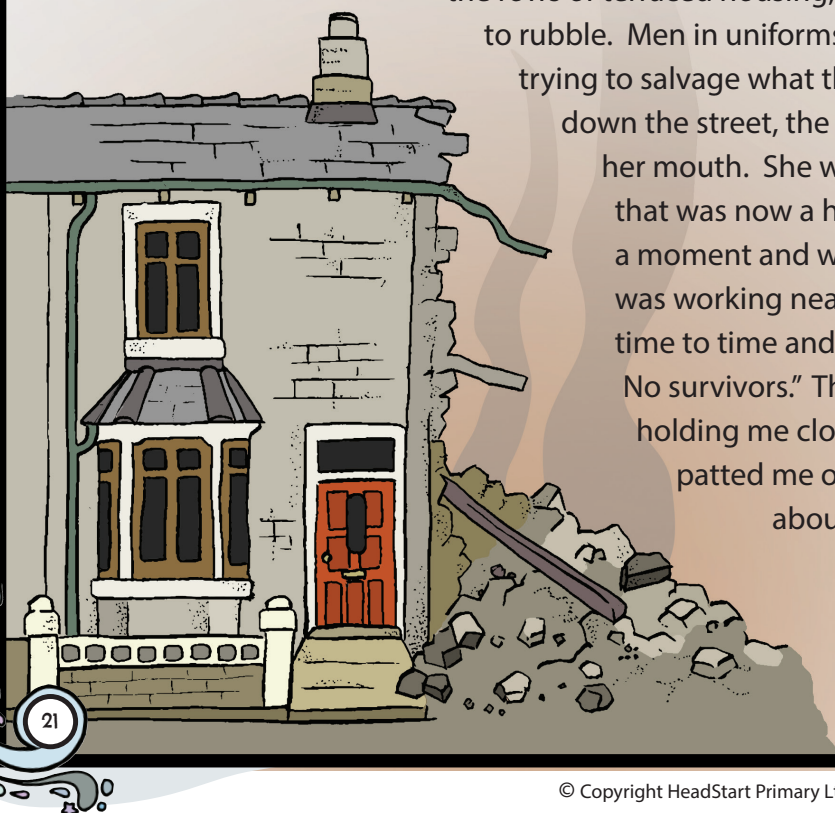
Reaching the top of the staircase, I shivered; there was a definite chill in the air and I was still in my pyjamas. A lad of about my age, who was pretending to be her eldest son, gave me his jacket. I tried to refuse, but he placed it over my shoulders anyway. There was something about the way he looked at me that sent another shiver down my spine. Anxiously, I looked around. In the pale morning light, I could see devastation everywhere; where once there had been buildings there were now just piles of rubble. I realised then that this play acting was certain to go on for longer.

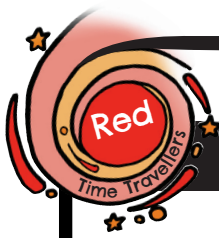
“Where do you live, love?” the lady asked me.

“Stanley Street,” I answered. “Number fourteen.”

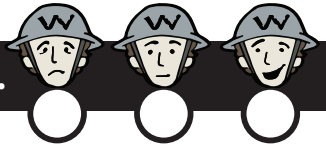
Leading the way, the lady headed towards my street with a little gaggle of children following behind. Once or twice, we had to go round great craters in the road. (My grandad was always complaining about potholes in the road which the council never seemed to get round to mending – he would have thrown a fit if he’d seen the size of these!) There was smoke everywhere and firemen were still putting fires out. I wondered how the council were going to pay for all this damage.

We rounded the corner into my street. There were a number of gaps in the rows of terraced housing; several houses had been reduced to rubble. Men in uniforms were removing the debris and trying to salvage what they could. When we got half way down the street, the lady stopped and put her hand over her mouth. She was looking at one of the houses that was now a huge pile of rubble. She left us for a moment and went to speak to a policeman who was working nearby. They turned towards me from time to time and I heard the policeman say: “All dead. No survivors.” Then she came back to me, and holding me close, she started to cry. The eldest lad patted me on the shoulder and a little girl of about five took my hand. “Don’t cry!” she said. “We’ll look after you.” I hadn’t understood before; it was my house that had been destroyed.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# I can rewrite sentences using verbs as sentence openers.

*We have looked at different ways of structuring a sentence. We can start with a fronted adverbial.*

The all clear siren started to wail eventually.

Eventually, the all clear siren started to wail.

*We can start a sentence with a conjunction and the subordinate clause.*

You could tell that they were big explosions although the noise was muffled.

Although the noise was muffled, you could tell that they were big explosions.

*Now we are going to learn how to start sentences with verb sentence openers.*

I shivered when I reached the top of the staircase.

Reaching the top of the staircase, I shivered.

*The verb **reached** has been moved to the front of the sentence, and it has been changed to the **ing** form of the verb.*

**Rewrite the sentences below using one of the three sentence structures in the examples above. (The starting words have been written in bold to help you.)**

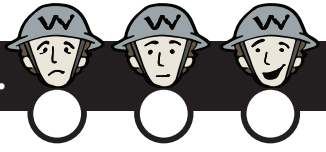
- 1 I **freed** myself from the lady's arms and ran towards my house.  
.....
- 2 I **climbed** over a pile of rubble and began to search for my mobile.  
.....
- 3 It had been thrown out of my hand **when** the bomb exploded.  
.....
- 4 I would be able to contact Mum **if** my mobile was working.  
.....
- 5 The lady **thought** I was trying to find my family and shouted to the policeman.  
.....
- 6 I knew Mum and Joe hadn't been killed **because** I had seen their empty beds.  
.....
- 7 The policeman **huffed** and puffed as he climbed over the rubble to speak to me.  
.....
- 8 I **ignored** his request to stop and rummaged through the broken bricks.  
.....
- 9 I **cut** myself on something sharp and looked down at my hand.  
.....
- 10 I **reluctantly** gave up my search and returned to the waiting family.  
.....

**Extension** Look through the passage and restructure some of the sentences.





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1 I freed myself from the lady's arms and ran towards my house. *(verb opener)*  
.....

2 I climbed over a pile of rubble and began to search for my mobile. *(verb opener)*  
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3 It had been thrown out of my hand when the bomb exploded. *(conjunction opener)*  
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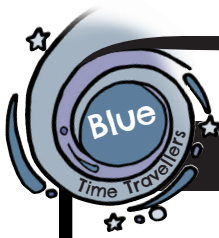
8 I ignored his request to stop and rummaged through the broken bricks. *(verb opener)*  
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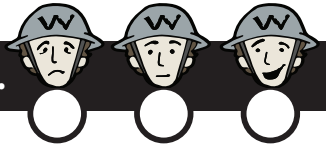
10 I reluctantly gave up my search and returned to the waiting family. *(fronted adverbial)*  
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