Dress – ups & Openers

A Quick Guide

Dress – ups and openers are very simple to use. Adding dress – ups and openers to your work helps to improve the overall quality of the writing. When adding dress – ups and openers, remember to only mark them in <u>regular</u> pencil, and only mark them when specifically asked. For instance, you would not mark dress – ups and openers if you were writing a letter to your grandparents. <u>Only mark when specifically</u> directed!

Dress – ups

- Dress ups are very easy to use. Dress ups can be adjectives, adverbs, or verbs that help describe your writing.
 - Adverbs describe verbs
 - Adjectives describe nouns
 - Verbs used for dress ups should show action
- Remember, don't just add any adjective, adverb, or verb to your writing.
 You only want to add quality words.
 - o Example, don't write the girl yelled. Instead write the girl shrieked.
- Dress ups are <u>underlined in regular pencil</u>. Do not highlight unless specifically directed.

<u>Examples</u>

I saw a <u>beautiful</u> butterfly flying in the sky. It had <u>scarlet</u> wings with <u>sapphire</u> blue spots. It <u>delicately</u> flew across an <u>emerald</u> green field. My baby sister <u>shrieked</u> when it landed on her head.

 Please note, there are several examples of adjectives, adverbs, and verbs in this example. Only the "strong" adjectives, adverbs, and verbs were marked. Words that are commonly used should be included in your writing, but NOT marked for dress – up points.

Openers

- In order for a word to be an opener, it must be the 1st word in the sentence. If the word is located anywhere else, it is not an opener.
- Openers are marked with a small o above the opener (this is the 1st word
 in the sentence). Additionally, the assigned number of the opener is
 placed in the margin of the paper.
- To be used properly, a comma in the sentence should be separating two distinct ideas.
 - o Common openers in 4th grade:
 - 2 Prepositional opener (the 1st word is a preposition)
 - 3 "ly" opener (the 1st word is an adverb ending in ly)
 - 5 Clausal opener (as, if, when, where, because, although, if, etc, are the 1st word)

The numbers listed above are the assigned numbers for the openers. A prepositional opener is always labeled with a 2. If you have five prepositional openers, you will label all five with the number 2.

Examples

- Today was a wonderful day at school. Because we were so well
- 2 behaved, we earned an amazing prize. Our teacher gave us a box. Inside the box, there was a new classroom computer.
 - Because is a clausal opener (#5). A small o was put above the word. The number 5
 was written in the margin. The sentence works as a clausal opener because two
 distinct thoughts are being expressed.

- Thought 1 Because we were so well behaved
- Thought 2 we earned an amazing prize
 - A comma separates the two thoughts.
- Inside is a prepositional opener (#2). A small o was put above the word. The number
 2 was written in the margin. The sentence works as a clausal opener because two distinct thoughts are being expressed.
 - Thought 1 Inside the box
 - Thought 2 there was a new classroom computer
 - A comma separates the two thoughts.

Now you are ready to add dress – ups and openers to your writing.

Final Example

I got a birthday present today. It was inside a box.

- 2 I <u>carefully</u> opened it and <u>peeked</u> inside. Inside the box, I found a tiny baby puppy. I jumped for joy and
- 5 <u>squealed</u> in delight. Since my parents bought me an <u>adorable</u> puppy, I will have to be more responsible at home.

<u>Dress – ups</u>	<u>Openers</u>
carefully – adverb	Inside – prepositional opener
peeked – strong verb	Since – clausal opener
squealed – strong verb	
adorable – adiective	