

Tips for Writing a Good Beginning Sentence

The first sentence of a story should make the reader want to continue reading.

1. Start with a **question**.

example: How did I ever get into this fix?

2. Start with a strong or surprising **statement**.

example: For the first time in her life, Mia was happy to be last.

3. Start with **action**.

example: Everyone was fast asleep until something big and heavy landed on our roof.

4. Start with **dialogue** between two characters.

example: "Don't go in there, Jamie!" Grandpa warned me, but I pretended not to hear him.

Create four stronger beginning sentences to replace the underlined sentence in the paragraph below.

I felt an earthquake last night. My bed was shaking so hard it woke me up. I heard glass and china rattling in the cupboards. My toy robot fell off the shelf. At first, I thought our new house must be haunted. Then, I remembered that I was living in California now. We didn't have earthquakes back in Texas, but we sure have them here!

1. _____
Use a **question**.

2. _____
Use a strong or surprising **statement**.

3. _____
Use **action**.

3. _____
Use **dialogue**.